

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

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BEA CABRERA

Tatiana Babauta, destination enhancement specialist of the Marianas Visitors Authority, presents the renovation specifics of the Paseo de Marianas to the MVA board last month. Looking on are MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh and board member Nick Nishikawa.

## MVA: \$1.4M allotted for Paseo de Marianas upgrade

By BEA CABRERA  
[bea\\_cabrera@saipantribune.com](mailto:bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has allotted \$1.4 million to give the

islands' only pedestrian mall—the Paseo de Marianas—a facelift.

Speaking in front of the MVA board last month, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said they

have been working on improvements in the Paseo de Marianas for a few years.

"The A&E designs are complete and we sought board approval to an-

ounce request for proposal for this project to see what bids we can get for this project. The ceiling amount is \$1.4 million and it is reserved already," he said.

"The overall plan is really nice. MVA destination enhancement spe-

cialist Tatiana Babauta is working closely with our contractor that does the architectural work," he added.

Concepcion said that the proposed design will provide a landscape that is true about the Marianas.

See MVA on Page 4

## Tinian airport to welcome 1st int'l flight

By BEA CABRERA  
[bea\\_cabrera@saipantribune.com](mailto:bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Tinian International Airport is finally living up to its name as it welcomes its first international flight—a chartered plane from Hong Kong—at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Jan. 12, at around 12:30pm.

For many years, TIA's passenger traffic was dedicated to inter-island travels from Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said that the completion of the Tinian International Airport has



San Nicolas

been a long time coming.

"Starting with the Gov. Pete Tenorio and Mayor Francisco M. Borja administrations to today, realizing the completion of the Tinian Interna-

tional Airport is a dream come true for the people of Tinian," he said.

"Having direct flights from Asia is the key to Tinian's economic development. We are grateful to the pres-

ent and prior Commonwealth Ports Authority boards and staff, to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, and the Capital Improvements Projects for their lead-

See TINIAN on Page 4

## CW legislation scheduled to drop this August

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
[kimberly\\_bautista@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. is hopeful that legislation to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program will be adopted by U.S Congress in the

second quarter of this year.

During the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni restaurant yesterday, NMBAC chair Alex Sablan updated the Rotary Club members on the actions currently being made to resolve the CW-1 transi-

tional worker only visa crisis.

Sablan said Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and her committee are expected to drop legislation that extends the CW-1 program in the Commonwealth.

"We're basically waiting for a

See CW on Page 4

## INSIDE



### NATION

The Trump administration's decision to end special protections for about 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants filled many Salvadoran families with dread.

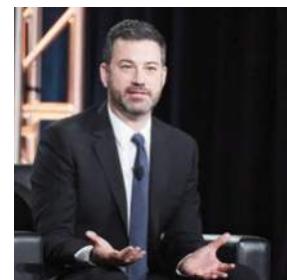
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### ASIA

Senior officials from the rival Koreas said Tuesday that they would try to achieve a breakthrough in their long-strained ties as they sat for rare talks at the border.

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### LIFE & STYLE

As the host of the Oscars in two months, Jimmy Kimmel watched Seth Meyers on the Golden Globes and felt that one of the monologue jokes was written specifically for him.

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# Local

## Lawyer questions IPI, MCC settlement

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A lawyer based in New York is questioning why Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC came out with a statement saying it was "pleased" that a settlement agreement

has been reached between their contracted employer and workers illegally recruited to construct the casino-resort.

A lawyer who refused to be named, but has been working with *Saipan Tribune* on several occasions regarding the illegal worker situation said

that neither IPI nor the workers could "really comment on the settlement."

According to a statement from IPI last Monday, their former main contractor, MCC International, has reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor on the fate

of the remaining six illegal workers.

IPI also specified that they were not privy to the details pertaining to the agreement, however they said they are "pleased" with the outcome.

On the statement, the lawyer said in an email that nei-

ther parties—the workers nor IPI—could really comment on the settlement since details were not present.

"...It is unclear how IPI can be 'pleased' by a settlement about which they do not know the actual terms. And, if they want to know the terms, what is the reason that they cannot get these answers from MCC?"

*Saipan Tribune* learned last Friday evening that the China Labor Bulletin, a non-governmental Chinese worker advocate group based in Hong Kong, sent a letter to IPI, urging the company to take care of the compensation owed the remaining six workers on Saipan. The letter was the second sent to Carman Chow of IPI from another Chinese worker advocacy group called China Labor Watch, which is based in New York.

IPI sent the statement in response to the letter from China Labor Bulletin.

According to the lawyer, one of the workers, named Li Qiang, reportedly did not receive his payment yet.

"It is not accurate to say that the USDOL agreement settles our claims. Nobody has told us the actual terms of the settlement, let alone shown us a copy of the settlement agree-

ment, and we have not received a penny at this point," Li reportedly said.

The lawyer added that any settlement reached between USDOL and the employer, even though it was technically on behalf of the workers, is only between USDOL and the employer.

"The USDOL does not consult with the workers before it decides whether or not to sign the agreement," said the lawyer. He added that some USDOL settlements are for less than what the workers are actually owed.

"...In some cases, the employer might say that it does not have enough money, or the USDOL might fear that it will be hard to collect money from the employer because its assets are overseas, and therefore USDOL will accept less than the full amount owed to each worker," he said.

Li reportedly asked the lawyer if they would still be compensated for the recruitment fees, their backwages, and for liquidated damages.

"The workers do not know the answers to any of these questions. Apparently, IPI also does not know the answers. Therefore, neither party can really comment on the settlement," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### THANK YOU

The DCCA Division of Youth Services received over 500 gifts this past holiday season from the Salvation Army to be disseminated to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota children currently being served under the Child Protective Services, Parents Anonymous, Inc. Children's Program, Kagman Community Center, and the Tanapag Youth Center. The Salvation Army has been running toy drives for the past five years to bring extra smiles to the children served by DYS. DYS has been blessed to have forged this partnership with the Salvation Army in reaching out and making a difference in the lives of children and families during the holidays.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SAIPAN GARDEN RESORT CRM PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2018-X-020

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Saipan Garden Resort project in Tanapag, Saipan.

The American Sinopan, LLC is proposing to construct and operate ten 6-story hotel buildings with amenities with a total of 1,184 rooms with two hotel dining buildings, a main lobby, three swimming pools, and administrative building as well as two 6-story apartments with 180 units and club house and two 6-story staff housing buildings with 170 units and cafeteria and two restaurant buildings on 24.7 acres in Tanapag.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 5PM. Location to be announced.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Garden Resort project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

## Roque's Tavern owner/chef attacked

A restaurant owner was seriously injured after being attacked in his place of business in San Roque last Tuesday night.

According to the Department of Safety public information officer Jackie Rae, last Jan. 9 at approximately 12:30am, DPS dispatch received a phone call from a male in Roque's Tavern in San Roque.

The caller said he was bleeding and in need of assistance. Upon arrival, police officers found a 53-year old Caucasian male, who was later identified as the Tavern's owner and chef Juan Carlos Berrocal, lying on the floor with bloodstains on his head.

Officers contacted Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services who transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center.

While at the scene, DPS detectives noticed broken glass on the floor by the entrance and a 4x4 piece of lumber with bloodstains.

There were other signs of struggle at the scene including a displaced cash register that

### CUC BRIEFS

#### Scheduled power outage today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Jan. 10, 2018, from 9am to 12pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace a rotted primary power pole along Isa Drive in As Tio.

This is part of an ongoing maintenance program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout the island.

Areas to be affected include Isa Drive, from the Kagman Mobil gas station to intersection of Chalan Santa Lourdes.

No water well, no traffic light, nor wastewater lift station will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (CUC)

#### Water outage on tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption starting from 8pm tomorrow, Jan. 11, to 8am on Friday, Jan. 12, in several areas on Saipan that that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor can install a new 18-inch gate valve. At the same time, CUC Water

was open and missing cash. Detectives at CHC ques-

tioned Berrocal who affirmed that he is the owner of Roque's

Tavern, but cannot recall what happened and if there was any cash in the register.

Berrocal told the detectives

that the last thing last memory he had that night was three men coming into the restaurant before blacking out. He

was admitted to CHC for further examination.

The case is currently under investigation. (Bea Cabrera)


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# Bill redefines public employment definition of ‘immediate family members’

**By ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

## CW

*From Page 1*

bill to be dropped by Senator Murkowski’s committee... once that is done, we are hopeful that we can take that bill and continue our efforts,” he said.

Sablan said that although NMBAC is assured that the legislation will feature an extension to the visa program, they are unsure if they will be given the 10 years they requested.

“Specific legislation that we think will come from her office will be an extension, to what number that is, we still don’t know,” he said.

NMBAC speculates that the bill will maintain the 12,998 slots that the CNMI was granted in the last fiscal year in order to sustain the CNMI’s economy.

“We’re asking for the 10 years and also a CW number

A bill that seeks to redefine the term “immediate family members” now heads to the House

of Representatives for action.

The House Judicial and Governmental Operations

Committee unanimously adopted Rep. Alice Igitol’s (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-144,

which seeks to redefine the term “immediate family members” to include the common-law spouses.

Common-law spouses are further defined as “two adults who are in [a] relationship together and have been living at the same residence for over one year.”

According to the bill’s findings and purpose, the intent of the bill was to allow couples in relationships similar to marriage to apply for benefit usually reserved for those legally married.

JGO chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) said his committee amended the bill to allow for common-law spouses to avail of other types of leave such as compassionate leave, Family and Medical Leave Act, or FMLA, and maternity or paternity leave just to name a few, just as legal spouses are entitled to.

“Immediate family members still include siblings, legal spouses, children, etc., but some folks are unmarried [and might] have somebody that has been there for them... what we need to do is to include the common-law spouse under immediate family members,” said Blanco.

JGO unanimously adapted the measure along with the amendments, which was intro-

duced by Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian).

Civil Service Commission chair Herman Deleon Guerrero said in his comments on the bill that it was something his commission supported.

“A number of employees are committed to common-law relationships and have the same need for family members as do those legally married employees,” he said in response to JGO’s request for comments.

Deleon Guerrero specified that with the new definition of “immediate family members,” the commission could now utilize it for issuing leaves usually reserved for legally married couples.

“The commission also intends to adopt this definition for use with regard to eligibility for Paternity Leave, Compassionate Leave, and the FMLA,” he added.

The commissioner through Deleon Guerrero’s comments also took the position to urge the legislature to consider a bill that would “establish and define common-law marriage for the community.”

The other government entities that JGO solicited comments from did not respond. H.B. 20-143, HD1 now heads to the House of Representatives for action.



Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. chair Alex Sablan gives an update on the controversial CW-1 transitional worker only visa crisis during the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday.

## MVA

*From Page 1*

“We will put a more trees to provide shade to people who are shopping or just strolling. For public events, a permanent stage for performances will be built, there will be a new walkway and definitely adequate lighting,” he said.

“We are now ready to start the project and the next step is to issue RFPs,” he added.

Babauta shared more plans that will be done in the renovation.

“First, we are moving and clearing everything that is in

the middle of Paseo so if you are standing at the Beach Road side, you will see everything up to Fiesta Resort & Spa. Second, we plan to construct a manmade river surrounded by blue flax stones which will give an environment that is relaxing. Third, we plan to plant palm trees and bonggang villa on both sides of the Paseo and add more plants,” she said.

“Fourth, a Japanese shrine will be built and it will be a historical site and attraction. It will have a green wall behind the shrine and we will put a bench in front of it where people can sit down and feel the neatness and serenity of the place. Fifth,

we noticed that some of the lights in Paseo are not aligned. Currently, lights poles are criss-crossed and the distance is not calculated so we are going to align it,” she added.

Board member Jerry Tan suggested adding a good sound system at PDM so it will not only be attractive visually but also audibly.

“The only reason I said this is for example, Christmas time, I think it will be good even without any band that all day long you are playing nice Christmas songs but you gotta have a sound system that allows you to have that,” he said. “So we can have music all

year round not only Christmas but also local songs. Sometimes you walk through Paseo and it’s too quiet. One thing that I noticed over the years is that I get attracted to music and light and adding music will be a plus,” he added.

The board and Concepcion agreed and the latter said that he will take this up with contractor.

Concepcion said that they are looking at an eight-month construction timeline.

“With the board’s approval of RFPs, we are excited to see what proposals are out there so we can begin construction,” he said.

There may be a possibility that some customers are still connected to the old line and may not receive water after water services are restored, so CUC is asking affected customers to contact the CUC Call Center immediately.

Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of the men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (CUC)

ing forward with their plans to build hotels and casinos on Tinian,” he added.

San Nicolas said that aside from the ribbon cutting at the TIA, other events are happening on the island.

“Aside from the ribbon cutting, the 16<sup>th</sup> Tinian Municipal Council is scheduled to hold its confirmation hearing for two of my nominees to the Municipal Scholarship Board: Porsha Palacios and Rodney Cabarles,” he said.

“With the spring semester upon us, it is crucial that the board have a quorum to conduct business. One issue the board will deal with is scholarships for the master’s program,” he added.

# Kody Omengkar pleads guilty

By BEA CABRERA  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 18-year-old who accidentally shot himself and his brother while playing with their sister's police-issued firearm pleaded guilty on charges

of aggravated assault and battery and unlawful discharge of a firearm.

The guilty plea was made by Kody Omengkar during arraignment last Monday in the court of Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

According to an experienced CNMI prosecutor, it is unusual to enter a plea of guilty during arraignment but also not unheard of.

"Arraignment is a preliminary court hearing where defendants enter a plea of

guilty or not guilty. It is unusual for a defendant to enter a not guilty plea this early because the government has probably not shown much evidence," he said.

"On the other hand, if facts are not generally in dispute, defendant might plead guilty at arraignment to demonstrate early acceptance of respon-

sibility and genuine remorse. The judge will no doubt give him a more lenient sentence because of this," he added.

Omengkar will be subject to sentencing after his guilty plea is made in court.

On Dec. 21, 2017, while in a moving vehicle Omengkar shot himself and his brother, Kory Omengkar, with a .40 caliber Glock 22, a weapon issued to their sister and then police officer Jaimie Omengkar.

According to Klyde Camacho, who was the driver, the three were at Jaimie Omengkar's home in San Roque when Klyde Omengkar asked to borrow her car to get something to eat.

Camacho, along with Kory and Kody, drove to Twin's Supermarket in Dandan to buy food and left. A few seconds after getting into Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Camacho heard a loud bang inside the car and saw Kory holding the left side of his chest, saying his back is feeling numb.

Kory sustained a two-and-a-half inch laceration on the left side of his chest as a result of

the gunshot wound and he is now in stable condition. Kody was also treated for his injuries and now is stable condition.

Kody admitted playing with the gun and pulling the trigger several times. He said that Klyde and Kory became mad at him for touching the weapon so he put it back in the holster.

However, after leaving Twin's Supermarket, Kody said he pulled the trigger again, causing the weapon to discharge. The bullet grazed his leg and shot into the back of his brother, Kory, who was seated in the front passenger seat.

At the bail hearing, Omengkar was ordered to post a \$50,000 bail, but he wasn't able to and was remanded to the Department of Corrections.

Meanwhile, Jaimie Omengkar resigned from the Department of Public Safety on the day of the incident. No charges are filed against her.

Chief prosecutor Michelle Harris told media last Friday that the Attorney General's office has not made any final determination on Jaimie Omengkar's case.




## Gas prices see a 13-cent increase

The Mobil gas station located in Chalan Piao displayed the new gas prices as early as Monday morning.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Motorists were hit with yet another unexpected raise in gas prices. An increase of 13 cents was implemented early this week.

From \$3.95, gas prices were raised to \$4.08 per gallon of

regular gas for all gasoline stations around the island.

Diesel prices increased from \$4.30 per gallon to \$4.45 per gallon.

The increase was implemented for all Mobil stations on Monday morning according to a Mobil station tenant and Shell followed

shortly after.

According to Chaster Floresca, a full-time working college student, it is frustrating that gas prices have to increase because it is necessary for him to get to and from his job at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and from Northern Marianas College.

"Just don't waste gas driving from place to place, driving around to places that is unnecessary, it's not worth it," he said.

According to previous articles on the *Saipan Tribune*, gas prices were \$3.48 early

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

2016 and continued to increase until it reached \$3.93 on December 2016. A decrease of 10 cents was seen on June of 2017 before it was increased by 10 cents again on October 2017.

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## CNMI/Japanese Descent Association reaches out

For almost a hundred years, Japanese cultural influence has permeated throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. That influence flourished in the islands' foods, language, architecture, and everyday common practices. However, over the past several decades, as a result of the decline in the Japanese economy and the continuous dwindling of the Japanese tourist market, the cultural significance of Japan has also declined.

To reverse this trend, the CNMI/Japanese Descent Association is trying to reach out to all local families who are

lineal descendants of Japan. The mission of the association is to organize and reinvigorate Japanese cultural heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands especially as it involves the local population.

The association believes that there are dozens of families who would be able to trace their ancestry to Japan.

For all members who are interested in joining the CNMI/Japan Descent Association, contact Dave Sablan Sr. at [dmsab@aol.com](mailto:dmsab@aol.com) or Norman Tenorio at [norten@pacificains.com](mailto:norten@pacificains.com) /cell: 287-0751. (PR)



NMI Republican Party  
Precinct #6 (Tinian)  
P.O. Box 520474 Tinian, MP 96950

### Moving Forward for the People of Tinian Notice of Organizational Meeting

This is to advise the general public that the NMI Republican Party, Precinct Club #6, will be holding its organizational meeting on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at the residence of Ms. Charlene M. Lizama, San Jose Village. All are encouraged to attend.

#### AGENDA

- I. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. First Vice Chairman
  - c. Second Vice Chairman
  - d. Secretary/Treasurer
- II. Message from Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas
- III. Message from NMI Republican Party President James A. Ada
- IV. Selection of Precinct #6 Candidates
  - a. Mayor
  - b. Senators
  - c. Representative
- V. Adjournment

JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS  
Chairman

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweeew, House of Justice P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702**

**REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS RFP18-JUDICIARY-01**

**SUBMISSION DATE: January 27, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

### "JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSIPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA Sections 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO  
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ  
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-009

### ALTERNATIVE POTABLE DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation Project in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of installation of alternative potable drinking water disinfection points in the CNMI, one (1) on the island of Rota, one (1) on the island of Tinian, and three (3) on the island of Saipan. These systems will be evaluated as part of an expanded, one-year pilot-study of alternatives to chlorine gas disinfection. The contractor will be responsible for installation of the automated disinfection systems as well as provision of disinfectant products and any other necessary consumables during the one-year contract period.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-009, Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2018** to Manny P. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Officer

# Green Meadow School thanks supporters, donors

Last year was another of Green Meadow School's successful years. Since its humble beginning in 2002, the school has been consistently registering decent growth not only in terms of the number of parents who entrust the education and care of their children to GMS, but likewise in its efforts of improving the school's physical facilities, in securing educational equipment and the necessary classroom tools.

The administration attributes all the successes and growth of the school collectively to the efficient and dedicated employees, wonderful students, very supportive parents, and the generous donors. Individual and

corporate benefactors, sponsors and contributors not only in terms of financial, time and support have always been willing and ready to assist GMS in projects that enhance the school's ability to provide quality education and care services its students and clients rightfully deserve.

One of these wonderful and generous donors and friends is Transamerica Corp., which on a regular basis has been providing financial assistance and other form of support to GMS for several years now.

To Transamerica Corp. and to all corporate and individual supporters and sponsors of Green Meadow School, thank you very much, *si yuus maase, maraming salamat po!* (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Transamerica Corp. president Steven Lim with his lovely wife Marites hand on Dec. 16, 2017 the \$2,000 ETC check to Green Meadow School president Milagros Songcuan.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Scheduled power interruption on Jan. 13

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, from 7:30am to 12pm, to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao.

This is part of an on-going hazard mitigation project that involves replacing 787 wood poles with concrete poles.

A total of 328 wood poles have already been replaced with their corresponding pole sizes. The remaining 459 wooden poles will be scheduled for replacement at a later time.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2" Partial): Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in Chalan Piao (Sherwood, Hopwood Middle School, Subway, Mobil Chalan Piao, Gold Ribbon, and Da Bao), Atuhong Pl., Aluyang Pl., Juan Nong St., Hamalap Ln., and San Isidro Av.

No water well will be affected but the A-4 wastewater lift station will be affected. The Chalan Piao traffic light will also be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest

updates. (PR)

### Homeless count orientation on Jan. 19

The CNMI Homeless Coalition would like to give notice that it will be having its Point-In Time Survey (Homeless Count) Orientation on January 19, 2018, from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The coalition would like to invite anyone who is interested in volunteering for the homeless count.

If you may have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jacob Muna at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. (PR)

### Career and Technical Education Program open house this Saturday

The CNMI Public School System will have an open house for its Career and Technical Education Program this Saturday, Jan. 13.

The public is invited to view materials and provide feedback/ comments for the Career and Technical Education Program instructional materials for review by PSS.

The open house will be held from 10am to 3pm on three locations Tanapag Middle School Room F-3 (Saipan), Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Library (Rota), and Tinian Junior Senior High School Library (Tinian).

Access to Feedback/Comments online form: <https://goo.gl/>

[forms/8Z2ZHE2FycvhgJPG3](https://forms/8Z2ZHE2FycvhgJPG3).

For more information, contact CNMI PSS CTE education specialist Jessica Taylor, Ed.D. at [jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org](mailto:jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org) or associate commissioner of Curriculum and Instruction, Jackie Quituga at [jackie.quituga@cnmipss.org](mailto:jackie.quituga@cnmipss.org). (PR)

### Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 10, from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 10, from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm
- Jan. 12, from 11am to 3pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators, to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)



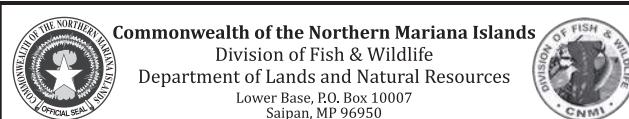
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on January 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

**CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
January 11, 2018 at 9:00 am

### Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. Executive Session
  - A. To consult with the legal counsel regarding the CMS Dashboard, pursuant to PL 8-41 Section 13 (6).
- V. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756



## SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING

**This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm.**

**The purpose of this meeting is to provide opportunity for input on proposed policies, regulations, fee schedule, and questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. Schedule assignments for Commercial loading and unloading will also be posted at this time.**



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2008

**For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN  
20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS**

Submission /Closing Date: **January 22, 2018** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:  
Marianas Visitors Authority  
Procurement Office  
San Jose Professional Building  
Beach Rd., San Jose  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after December 18, 2017, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to [brepeki@mymarianas.com](mailto:brepeki@mymarianas.com), and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 22, 2018.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at [brepeki@mymarianas.com](mailto:brepeki@mymarianas.com) or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018.

/s/ Christopher J. Nelson  
Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion  
Managing Director

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2016 Yaris, 4-Door Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, STK#U17-100R  
WAS \$15,699\*  
Now \$15,199\*



2015 Prius C, Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, Blue, STK#U17-090L  
WAS \$15,999\*  
Now \$15,499\*



2007 FJ Cruiser  
SUV, V-6, Manual, 6-spd, 4WD, Red, STK#U17-133T  
WAS \$17,599\*  
Now \$16,599\*



2016 Prius C  
4-cyl, Auto, White, STK#U17-136L  
WAS \$16,999\*  
Now \$16,999\*



2017 Yaris L Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red/Black, STK#U17-028F  
WAS \$16,999\*  
Now \$16,999\*



2017 Yaris Hatchback  
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Gray, STK#R17-026F  
WAS \$17,399\*  
Now \$17,399\*



2016 Corolla LE  
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Green, STK#U17-114R  
WAS \$19,899\*  
Now \$18,199\*



2016 Corolla LE Sedan  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U17-119R  
WAS \$19,999\*  
Now \$18,299\*



2012 Sienna LE  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, STK#U17-092T  
WAS \$22,799\*  
Now \$20,799\*



2015 Prius HV, 4-dr Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, STK#U17-102R  
WAS \$21,999\*  
Now \$20,999\*



2013 Toyota Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-126T  
WAS \$26,199\*  
Now \$23,499\*



2016 Tacoma Access Cab  
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-129L  
WAS \$26,199\*  
Now \$24,199\*



2011 Tacoma DC 4X4  
V6, Auto, Green, STK#U17-091T  
WAS \$25,699\*  
Now \$24,999\*



2016 Tacoma Access Cab  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-130L  
WAS \$25,999\*  
Now \$24,999\*



2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC  
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T  
WAS \$26,899\*  
Now \$26,899\*



2015 Tacoma Double Cab  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-132T  
WAS \$26,999\*  
Now \$26,999\*



2017 Tacoma 2WD, DC, SR5  
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#R17-029F  
WAS \$27,599\*  
Now \$27,599\*



2013 4Runner SR5  
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T  
WAS \$29,999\*  
Now \$27,699\*



2015 Highlander LE  
4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Gray, STK#U17-021F  
WAS \$29,999\*  
Now \$27,799\*



2014 Tacoma Double Cab  
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L  
WAS \$31,399\*  
Now \$28,699\*



2014 Tacoma DC  
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T  
WAS \$30,599\*  
Now \$28,799\*



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-109R  
WAS \$30,229\*  
Now \$29,299\*



2015 Highlander LE Sport  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P  
WAS \$30,599\*  
Now \$29,399\*



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R  
WAS \$30,599\*  
Now \$29,599\*



2015 Tacoma Double Cab  
V-6, Auto, 5-spd, 4WD, Red, STK#U17-131T  
WAS \$30,299\*  
Now \$29,899\*



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R  
WAS \$30,599\*  
Now \$29,599\*



2016 Highlander LE Sport  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Gray, STK#R17-025F  
WAS \$30,799\*  
Now \$29,799\*



2015 Toyota Sienna LE  
8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R  
WAS \$34,499\*  
Now \$29,999\*



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-125R  
WAS \$34,499\*  
Now \$30,999\*



2015 Tacoma DC  
V6, Auto, 4WD, Blue, STK#U17-097T  
WAS \$33,399\*  
Now \$32,499\*



2016 4Runner SR5, 4WD  
V-6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-140T  
WAS \$34,899\*  
Now \$32,799\*



2012 4Runner Trail Edition  
V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P  
WAS \$34,899\*  
Now \$33,899\*



2016 Tacoma TRD  
4WD, V6, Auto, Silver, STK#R17-030F  
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# Register for NMC's spring 2018 semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding individuals who are seeking to advance their education or their professional careers that they can still apply for and register for the college's spring 2018 semester. Registration is ongoing throughout this week through Jan. 12, 2018. First day of classes is on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018.

Individuals who need financial aid can also apply for the Federal Student Aid program, which provides financial assistance to those who meet certain eligibility criteria.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).

Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of

a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests; the placement test dates are listed at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).

Students can also make an appointment to take placement tests by calling 237-6774. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in order to register for courses.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management; associate degrees business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or com-

puter applications), liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and

social work), nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality

management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office

of Admissions and Records at 237-6772 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (PR)

## Engineers' group's Guam event expected to draw hundreds

**GUAM**—The relocation of Marine Corps facilities to Guam has begun. More than \$300 million in construction and development investments over the past year triggered the start of one of the largest investments in military facilities and infrastructure in the Western Pacific within the past 50 years.

The Guam post of the Society of American Engineers will host the Guam Industry Forum from March 7 to 9, 2018, at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort to inform and provide an opportunity for Guam, U.S. and Japanese companies to learn how they can participate, receive details about the program and network to create what is hoped to be a collaborative development effort.

### » Early bird registration for the Guam Industry Forum 2018 ends Jan. 15

John Robertson, president of the SAME Guam Chapter said, "We've been collaborating with representatives from the Navy and the Japanese Ministry of Defense for several months now, and we are proud to be organizing this important event [in] Guam. Response has been favorable from speakers, sponsors and registrants. Local and international businesses, large and small, will benefit greatly from the information presented at this forum."

The lineup of presenters in-

cludes officials from the government of Guam, the U.S. and Japanese governments as well as the private sector. Event details can be found on the SAME event website at [guamindustryforum2018.com](http://guamindustryforum2018.com)

The government of Japan has committed several billions of dollars to collaborate projects with the U.S. to complete the program. The total investment by the U.S. and Japan will be more than twice that when the relocation program is completed.

Several hundred participants are expected to attend

and take advantage of the opportunity the forum provides. The three-day event is designed to provide up-to-date information about the program and explore ways to make the relocation efforts a success for all participants and for Guam. There will be ample networking opportunities and the information presented will be timely and beneficial. The forum will provide the kind of information necessary for local companies to position themselves to be successful participants.

The early bird discount rate ends on Jan. 15, 2018. Visit [guamindustryforum2018.com](http://guamindustryforum2018.com) to register and be a part of the forum. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

### DONATION

The Division of Youth Services recently received a \$5,000 donation from the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort for the Kagman Community Center. The purpose of the donation was to give back to the community by assisting with the operational needs of the center. KCC currently runs an after-school program and several parent education classes and sessions throughout the week. The center is also made available to community agencies and schools that need the venue to sponsor or co-sponsor community events. The donation will be used to cover ground maintenance and cleaning services to ensure health and safety for all its participants.

## Flashback A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### January 10, 2001

#### House joins fight against abortion

In a strong statement advocating pro-life, the House of Representatives is set to adopt a resolution supporting a month-long campaign by various church organizations on the islands against abortion. The House leadership will be part of the efforts to raise awareness in the community on the need to safeguard the life on a mother's womb, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta.

Different church groups have joined hands to mark January as "Celebration of Life Month" with various activities, including a prayer vigil and a march to be held next weekend. The resolution will be adopted tomorrow at the start of the House regular session, Mr. Babauta said, adding it will endorse the campaign initiated by the church coalition.

#### ON SHOOTING RESORT BILL Senate rules out override on veto

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's veto on legislation easing the tough gun control law to establish so-called "shooting resorts" in the CNMI will not be overridden, according to Senate President Paul A. Manglona. "It is as good as dead and we now have to continue to look for other investment opportunities for the Commonwealth," he told yesterday in a radio interview with

KSAI. But he said they may pass similar measure to allow this type of resorts to operate on Rota and Tinian since the Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill last year. The governor thumbed down HB 12-212 on Monday, saying he could not compromise public safety over potential economic benefit of the shooting resorts on the islands.

### January 10, 2005

#### PSS to get service car this week

The Public School System and the Board of Education office will get a service vehicle this week, said Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente. This was confirmed by the Governor's Office, saying the service car will be used to assist PSS and BOE in their daily operations. Gov. Juan N. Babauta confirmed that his office will provide one service car to PSS and the BOE, saying that Benavente and vice chair Dino Jones had approached him and lobbied for the service car. The governor then forwarded their request to the Office of Management and Budget to look for possible funds. OMB then confirmed that funds have been allocated for this request. The vehicle was promised by the governor almost six months ago.

#### Media tour group visits the CNMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority coordinated three media familiarization tour groups from abroad in December 2004. This effort resulted in an enormous amount of publicity valued at a total of approximately \$278,213, which targeted nationwide readership for the CNMI in Japan and Taipei. The monthly Golf Masters publication, the Island Contact CM from Japan, and CTI television from Taipei were the media hosted and supported by MVA and its members during their FAM tour. The

MVA branding messages focus on three themes—sports tourism, gourmet cuisine and health, beauty and spa.

### January 10, 2006

#### Tsukamoto to link Nagoya investors to NMI

A former Japan congressman will act as the Fitial administration's link to Japanese investors in Nagoya, one of the centers of economic activity in Japan. Saburo Tsukamoto came to the Commonwealth to participate in the inauguration activities and to show his support for the newly installed governor's economic agenda. In a press conference yesterday, Tsukamoto said he does not have a particular business he is planning on setting up in the Commonwealth. But he will take his cue from Fitial. According to the governor, Tsukamoto is a very influential person, highly respected by government and business officials in Japan.

#### Continental's jumbo jets cease Guam-Saipan flights

Continental Micronesia's jumbo aircraft reportedly stopped its daily flights between Guam and Saipan beginning yesterday. However, Continental partner Cape Air continues to service Saipan, Rota and Guam. Based on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's gate schedule for the Saipan International Airport, Continental Micronesia's passenger jets provide three flights daily to Manila and three flights back to Saipan. The new schedule, which took effect yesterday, reflected no Continental jet arriving on Saipan from Guam. The airline has provided three charters flights to Saipan from three Japanese cities this month. Dias said the flights, which utilized Boeing 737-800 jets that have seat capacities of 155 each, arrived on Saipan on Jan. 2, 3 and 4 from Nagoya, Niigata, and Sapporo, respectively.

# 380 lbs of garbage collected by Imperial Pacific's 'Adopt-A-Beach Project 2018'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An IPI-CSR member clears the wire fence of unwanted foliage.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Melina Salas and Fuji Suel dig up trash that had been buried deep in one of Saipan's beachfronts.



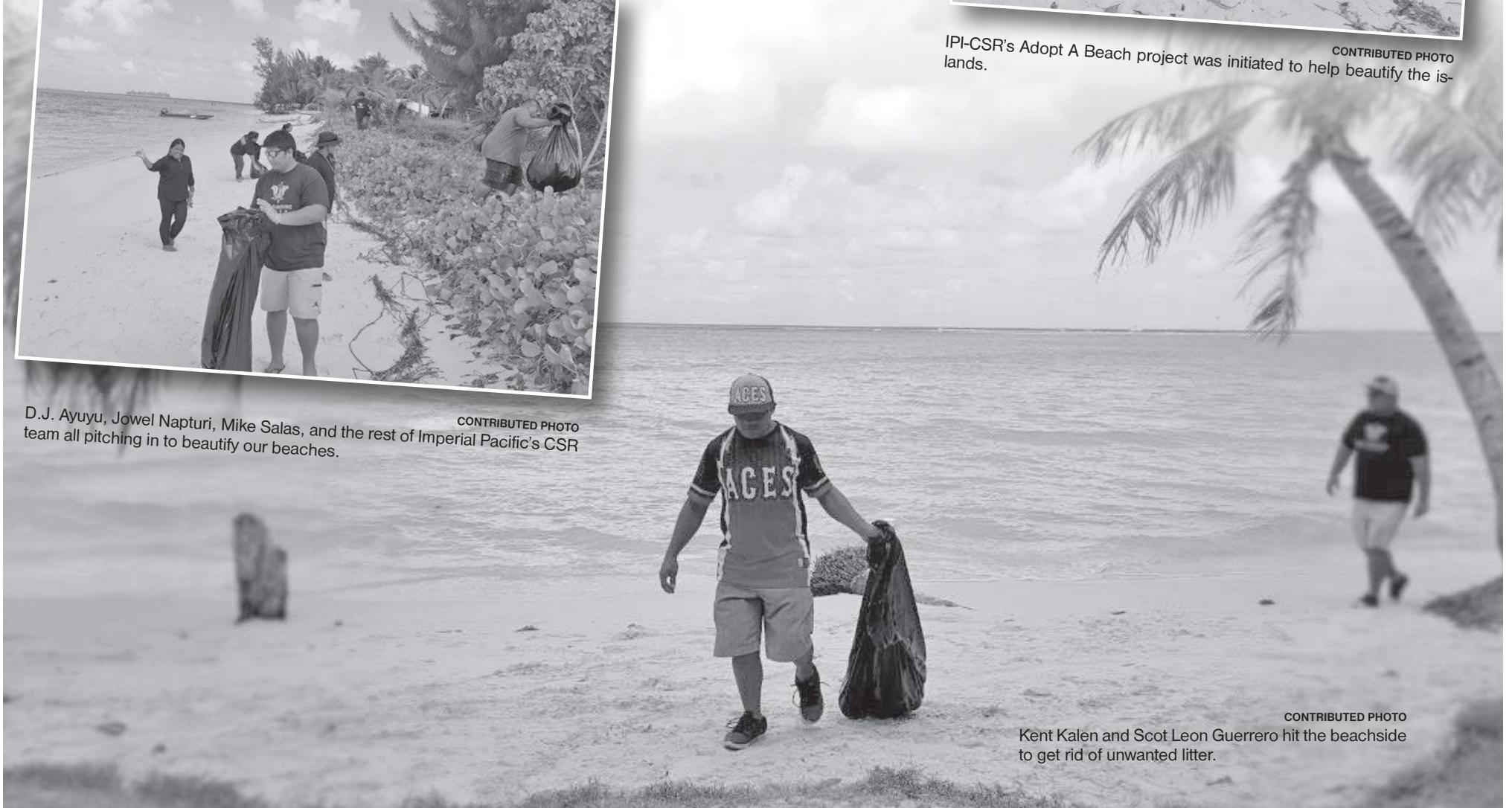
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jaclyn Litulumar and Fuji Suel load up the second batch of garbage that was collected along the beaches from Micro Beach to Garapan Fishing Base.



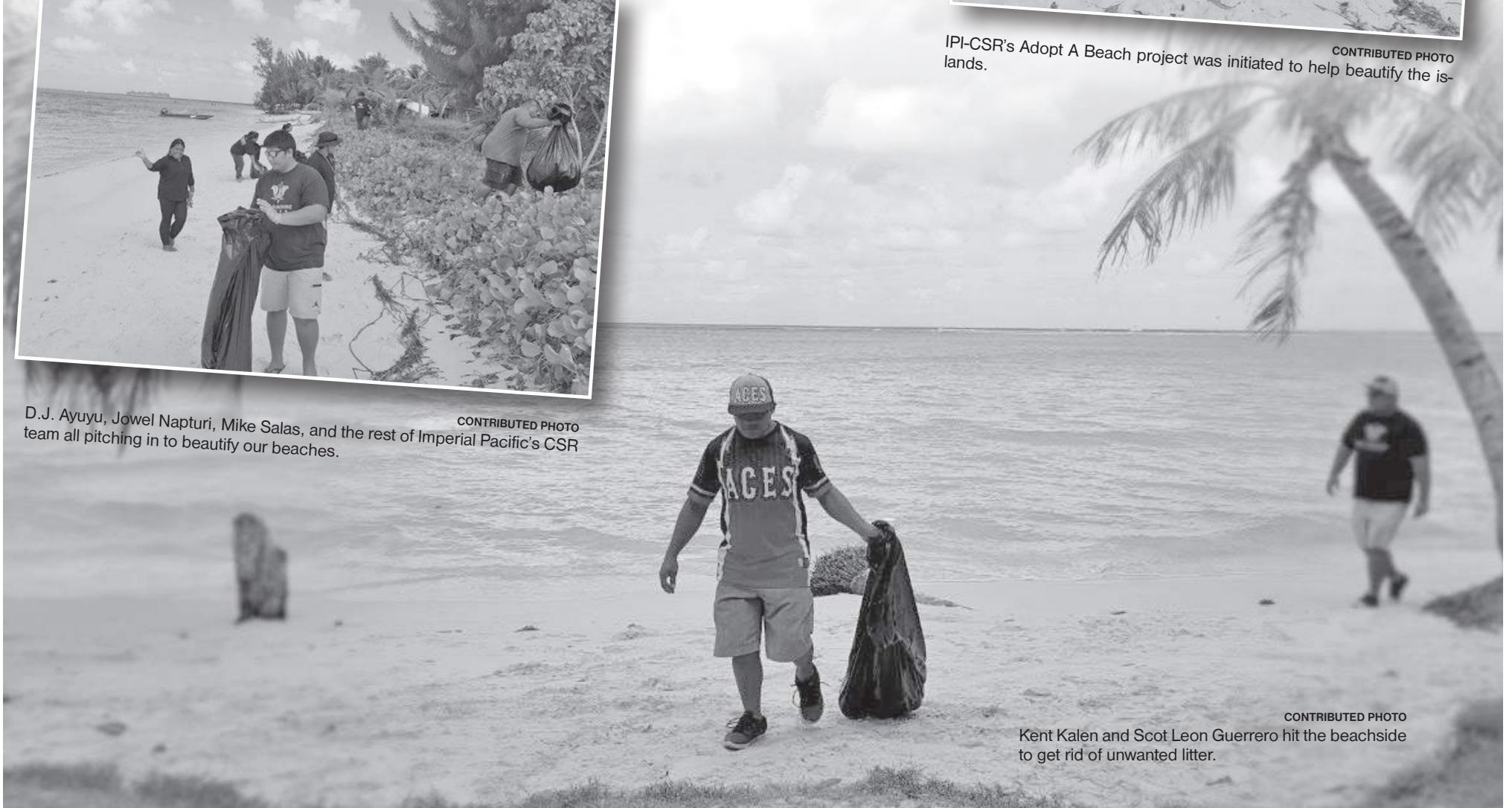
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

D.J. Ayuyu, Jowel Napturi, Mike Salas, and the rest of Imperial Pacific's CSR team all pitching in to beautify our beaches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Kent Kalen and Scot Leon Guerrero hit the beachside to get rid of unwanted litter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edilynn Benjamin, D.J. Ayuyu, and Melina Salas uncover trash that were dumped behind the rocks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
IPI-CSR's Adopt A Beach project was initiated to help beautify the islands.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### White House chaos, outlined in 'Fire and Fury,' was already obvious

**R**eality TV created the myth of Donald Trump, and American voters bought into it. "The Apprentice" established Trump as a top-shelf business manager whose keen eye for talent was key to the Trump brand's success. Just enough American voters embraced the myth to elevate a real estate developer and game show host to the presidency.

A controversial bombshell book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," outlines in great detail how woefully unprepared Trump was to take on the most important office in the world. Trump reportedly is apoplectic over the book, and White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders has denounced it as fiction. But a president to whom The Washington Post has attributed 1,950 lies is hardly someone to take seriously when he calls author Michael Wolff a liar.

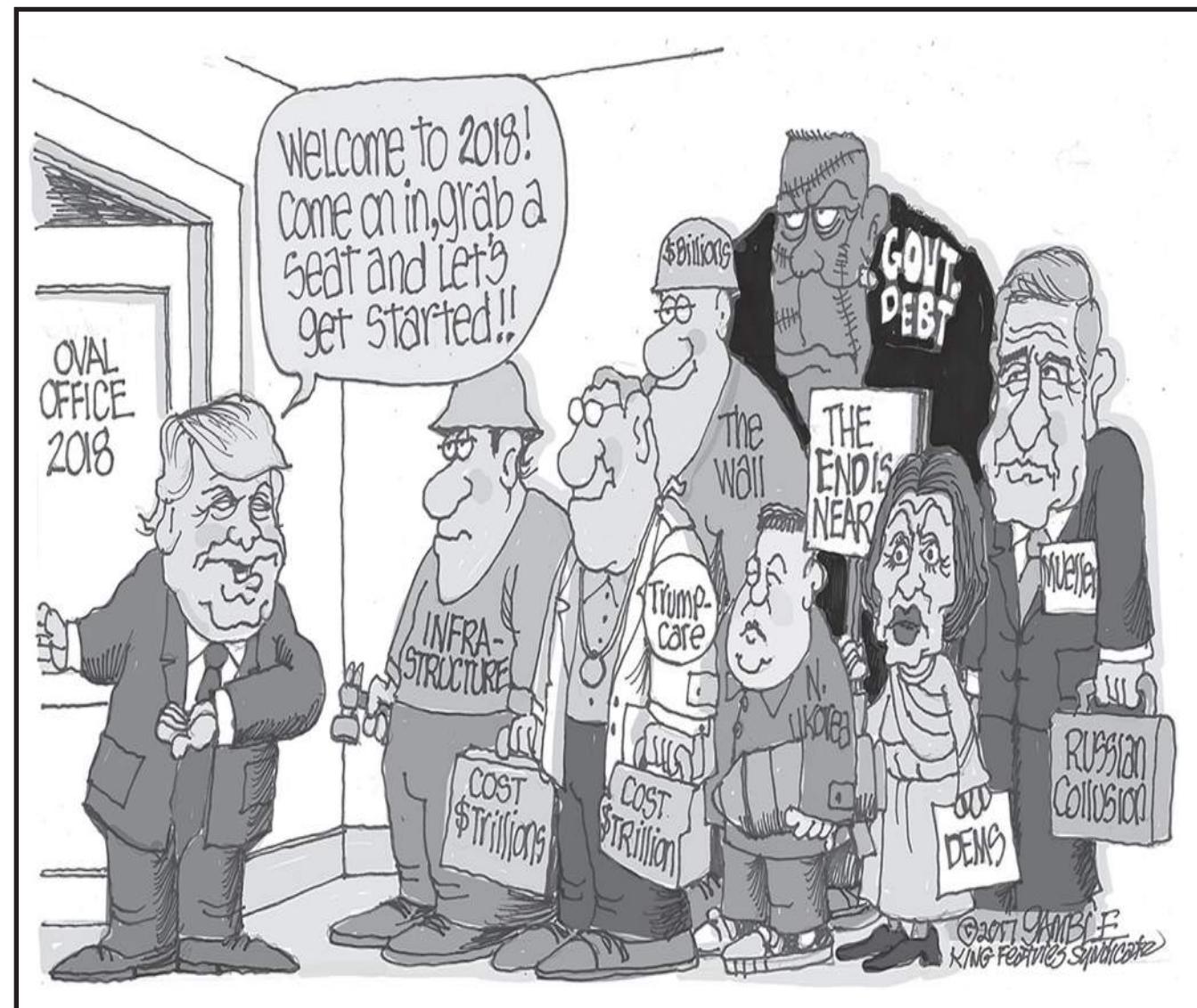
What's not fiction is the trail of chaos and disaster that has followed Trump since Inauguration Day. The man behind the reality show actually has little use for top talent and tosses senior staffers overboard like ballast from a sinking ship. Recall just a few of those who fell in the battle to keep the Trump myth alive:

- Reince Priebus, who lasted only six months as Trump's first chief of staff;
- Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser, who survived only three weeks in the job and is now a cooperating witness after pleading guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia scandal;
- Stephen Bannon, the chief strategist who helped align Trump with the white supremacist movement;
- Mike Dubke, the White House communications director who lasted only three months in the job;
- Anthony Scaramucci, the dapper replacement for Dubke who publicly self-destructed and lasted only one week on the job;
- Sean Spicer, the press secretary and communications director whose disastrous first days on the job included lying about the size of Trump's inaugural crowd;
- Tom Price, the secretary of health and human resources who resigned after reports surfaced that he had spent more than \$1 million of taxpayer money on private travel accommodations.

That's just a sample of Trump's disastrous hiring and management decisions. He is either a lousy judge of character, or he has a badly misplaced sense of priorities on what qualifies a person to serve inside the highest office in the land. For Trump, it's not about talent; it's about blind, unwavering loyalty and a willingness to be publicly berated if it helps elevate Trump's image.

Because Trump so casually undercuts his staffers and dismisses their sacrifices, they will eventually stop giving him the loyalty he demands and grow amenable to cooperation with investigators probing possible White House connections to Russian election meddling and obstruction of justice.

The exposed Trump myth is now a bestselling book. But if his already-sinking approval ratings are any indication, most Americans realized long ago that they've been conned.



## New Year's resolution not sticking? Here's why

**H**ave you vowed that this will be the year you will lose weight, eat healthier, make better financial decisions, quit smoking or simply delve into self-improvements? And if you made such a New Year's resolution, have you stuck to it now that we're more than a week into 2018?

According to the Statistics Brain Research Institute, about 58 percent of Americans make these resolutions with only 9.2 percent of people saying they were successful in achieving their resolution at the end of the year. Many of us fall off the bandwagon within the first week.

Why do we fail to maintain our resolutions throughout the year? The answer is quite simple. Immediate results are paramount to us, and their value is far more important than future fulfillments.

Studies have constantly connected the art of self-control to success in weight loss, managing personal finances and overall self-improvement. We are well aware that inducing constraint when faced with temptation and suppressing our urgency for immediate results will lead to exertion of our willpower and ultimately reaching our resolutions. Yet we still submit to our impulses of binge eating or shopping.

Why? Because we are nearsighted in our vision of self-control. We need to bear witness that self-control is not a barrier to obtaining momentary pleasures, but rather a way for us to create gains and increased worth for our future. We imagine self-control to be like a resistance band, holding us back from that doughnut, holding us back from purchasing that expensive car and finally holding us back from happiness. We see it as a burden inevitably making us miserable. Although we may be able to first resist the urge, our willpower slowly fades, and before we know it, our resolution is long forgotten.

To add to this, we constantly face emotional situations leading to stress. We feel stressed at work and use smoking as an outlet. We lose a family member and decide to get away and splurge on a vacation. We give up on self-control and will power since it makes you miserable, and death is eventually inevitable right?

Stress seems to be a major player in affecting willpower and decision making. Researchers from the University of Zurich did a study where they decided to have people pick between foods while stressing them out. The results were that people under stress chose the unhealthy item, while people with no stress picked the healthier item.

Part of this experiment involved observing brain activity of

**By ANGELA SILVEIRA**

The Baltimore Sun

Angela Silveira is a physician and public health specialist from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her email is angela.s@jhu.edu



the participants. Scientists noted alternating spikes in connectivity in various areas of the brain and also noticed that the stress hormone — cortisol — was partially responsible for the reduction in this connectivity. With reduction in brain communication, also came reduced willpower.

In the most recent Stress in America survey, 57 percent of respondents reported losing weight as a goal for the new year, and 50 percent opted to eat a healthier diet. The survey further showed that less than one in 5 adults reported being successful at making health-related improvements.

There is a continuous battle with people struggling to have enough willpower. The American Psychological Association (APA) defines willpower as "the ability to delay gratification, resisting short-term temptations in order to meet long-term goals." Achieving your resolutions through healthy behaviors and resisting temptations can be stressful. However, strengthening your willpower can help to achieve your goals.

The APA advises these techniques to help you strengthen your willpower:

Focus on a single, clearly defined goal instead of a list of goals. Succeeding at the first goal will strengthen your willpower and improve your ability to succeed in the next.

Monitor your behavior toward your goal by keeping consistent track of your progress and developing a feasible action plan.

Build positive relationships and surround yourself with people you trust and who will be supportive of your goals.

As 2018 begins, take the time to reflect on your emotional well-being before delving into your new goals. Be grateful and reflect on what you have now instead of what you want. Be patient with yourself, and be proud of all your achievements no matter how tiny they are. Achieving your goals is not a race or competition, it is a step toward the best you that you can be. Make this 2018 a celebration of you.

## Greed and violation of law

**T**he people in the villages are hungry for juicy red meat while pundits work the clock to hide the 80 percent largess they gave themselves. Apparently Da Boysis owe villagers one big and juicy steak dinner but their icebox is empty. The new salary doesn't kick in until the end of the second week of this month. Big problem, braddah!

Be it ham, ram, bull, beef, deer, or goat, just something raw and red. The village folks want a taste of that juicy steak Da Boysis would eat in mid-January. Why not, "we are people too," declared Magoo.

"The crummy 5 percent they threw at us is still 75 percent less than their 80 big ones," he noted. "Did they forget that basic cost is skyrocketing as to ignore the hardship we had to take because of their negligence?"

The thought of being slammed out in the campaign trail for their purposeful violation of the trust of "we the people" had them praying the rosary backwards while biting their filthy fingernails. By now, the bone soup at the pantry is getting cold. What about the steak dinner the villagers wanted to taste?

Da Boysis did everything except avoid the dictates of the law, e.g., the appointment of the salary commission that must come from without the legislature. The appointment came from within.

The law requires using the composite price index to determine percentage increase. They looked up the ceiling and picked out the number 80! Wow! Lawmakers violating the very law they approved? Isn't this a self-corrupting act?

**Triniste:** Guaha `nai hagacha`yu` mañogñug gi sisonyan triste piot ya inakompapaa silensi tuoriya-hu. Sige pa`gu de hu dibina haf` gaige na fina` mensahe guine na chinatsagag-hu.

Tat ihu satba na asuntog-hu lau gai inaguaguat i lumuluñu` na sentimentog-hu. Kau guaha destrosiu na ira para u tafan fi-natoigue? Kau sentimentun un` dañkulu na suette? Tat puntan lañget yan sasalaguan ti hu fatoigue humusga este na siñiente.

Ilegña dispues i hagahu, "Na kontentu hau sa` mafnas tod chathinassomu gi Matsu pa`gu na sakan". Mas ha yalaka` chathinasog-hu! Infin, hu aksepta ya bai nañgan ñaihon haf` na suette mamamaila`.

■■■

Uma`afana` dos malañgu gi hatdin hospitat pot chenot korason. Ni unu malagu` dumeskute haf` sessu pinadesisiña. Ilegña i

unu, "Gigon un` huñgang-yu` matai-yu` ensegidas". Umadiñgu ni hoi` ni goi`.

■■■

Pa`gu i dos `adet daibites sage lokue` umachatge kulan mediou konsuelu. "Ai, sis heku` haf` na nina`ye hit chenot ruskete. Es-tague` pa`gu na gigon iridau hit i para uma-utot ensegidas". A` saina!

■■■

Mattu un` lahe gi sagan mañagu (maternity ward). Finaisen ni infetmera kau mapotge-gue`. Ai na grasia. Era para u bisita i asaguña ni mandeskatga. De dios!

■■■

'Nai hahala halum un` dikiki` palagse`, finaisen ni peskatdot, "Man-mañgge mañainamu?" Era, ume`edañkulu ya puru basulan dikiki` mangagadun gi haguetña.

■■■

Este i peskan liku` achu` (peskan dohdu) bonitu ma`atan gin-en kantun tasi. Kulan mohon megai un` pachichiniko` ya mamak-at un` rikohe kinine`mu. Dispues de trenta minutus un` bira hau halum gi inai, seru. Estaya lumi`uf hau kadu` prefektu peskadot.

■■■

'Nai sumugu`yu` manbisita gi un` tiahu pa`gu ha susufan i tininun lemai. Esta lokue` masa kadoña guihan. Ha kombidayu` para bai` chochu. Ilegña, "Kadu hau". Era ilelegña na para bai` sopasyu` kadon guihan. Sigeyu` chumaleg ni sasañgaña. Dispues de haspog-yu` machum sikos-hu.

■■■

Un` afamau na bulerun New York Yankees umasoda` yan un` amku` ni sessu bumisita i plasan bola achog taya huegu. Finaisen kau sisiña ha` che`chu` kasamiento. Ineppe, "Ai ihu, kulan telefon. Guaha `nai madiliñgdiñ guaha `nai inipus silensiú". Ai na grasia i dos.

■■■

Sige un` amko` ha lasa apaga` asaguña gi ha`anen kompliaños i biha. Ilegña, "Ai este hagas man-ñge`hu..." Sinablas-sus tatte, "Hmmm! Yahu lumi`e haf` para un` chogue". Magpu gotpe i kompliaños!

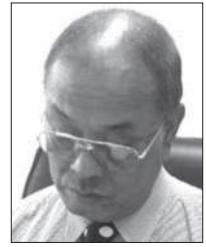
■■■

Un` tiempu, maseha haf chenotmu mana`e hau APC para un` gimen. Ni achog mattun pot kaset pat TB siempre mana`e hau amot APC. Lamegai dispues tautau-ta man-mamadese matai reñihion pot manadan amot APC. Ilegña si Magoo na ti debi sa`

■■■

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

este i APC "Amot Para Chamorro". Dios mihu Iku!

■■■

Gi finagpu` gera, ma-introduce kesu gi natibu gi amotsan oga`an. Mañge` na na`ye yan pan. Sige ma-usune makanu` manadan kesu. Uttimoña, kontodu habun paupau mapika ni sesi` kobiettu ya makanu`. Tat ti bobo`an sekosña! Dios mihu!

■■■

Gi duranten setmoña, mamaisen i o`bispo gi manhosme misa kau manmanhoñge siha as Yuus. Todu humatsa kanai niha. Dispues manfaisen kuantu giya siha manlistu para umadalalag i Saina gi finagpu` misa. Ni unu humatsa kanaiña. Dios mihu! Ai, puru ineppen suspechosu na konbiniente!

■■■

Un` amku` guuya mana`e para una` fan liliku` man-ma`gas i Navy antes. Mafaisen kau guaha famaguona. Ilegña, "Two Saipan, two Guam and three sleeping in the cemetery". Dios mihu! Era i tres mangaige gi simienteyu man-matai.

■■■

Hayute` i juez huyuñg todus kausan ti sumaga gi "stop sign". Mamaisen i man-aresta na polisia haf` guaha. Ineppe ni magas-ña, "Ilegña i juez lache i matuge` pot ti sumaga i draiba gi "spot sing", era stop sign. Dios mihu!

■■■

Taya` mas mañge` na mukus ayu `nai kamakate hau pot mana` pinit. Dispues un` lotge mas umesalau `nai malasa apaga`mu para un` para. Esta un` papañot mames mikosmu ni duru milalag. A`saina!

■■■

Megai `nai hu pesa pineduñg liñguah. Lau esta pa`gu ti siña hu pula` sustansian finu` un` amiguahu ginen iya Filipinas, "It depends for you". Dios tiampare!

## Why Oprah's Golden Globes speech was so effective

**I** found the shimmering assemblage of a black-on-black red carpet at the Golden Globes on Sunday visual representation that women — from Hollywood A-listers to domestic workers — will no longer stand for the lecherous behavior of the Harvey Weinsteins, Matt Lauers, Russell Simmons, and even Sam Haskells of the world, but it was Oprah Winfrey who flawlessly nailed the message of the Time's Up movement.

Her speech was so powerful I can understand the rumors circling that Winfrey might be considering a run for president. And though I'm certainly doing the happy dance inside, an impassioned speech does not a presidential candidate make.

Still, Winfrey in all of her fabulous #blackgirlmagic connected the dots of resistance and hope like only this true queen of media can. And at the end of her short but powerful acceptance of the Globes' prestigious Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award, I believed her.

"I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon," Winfrey said in a tone that was deeper than her normal contralto. "And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'Me too' again."

Yasss!

The abuse of power is knitted deep in the fabric of our society. It's so insidious we are often blind to our participation. Think about previous red carpets where women arrived on the arms of powerful men like props — even when they are the ones receiving the awards. They were told to walk French manicures down mini-carpets to be shot by mani-cams or gush about the millions of dollars worth of jewels draped around their necks instead of talking about their projects.

I don't believe it was a coincidence that Winfrey was chosen for this award right now. The Golden Globes announced she would receive the DeMille in December, months after the New York Times ousted Weinstein. On Jan. 1, the National Women's Law Center announced the creation of the Time's Up Movement,

a legal defense fund to raise money for women and men to fight sexual harassment. The fund has more than \$15 million in it.

If you are a student of the Oprah-hosted Super Soul Sunday like I am, you know she doesn't believe in coincidences. What she does believe in is rising to the occasion. And that she did.

At the heart of Winfrey's beautiful speech was a call for unity. She called attention to the past in order to understand the future. She called us to live in our truth. That truth calls us to acknowledge we are all one: We breathe the same air and in the end we will all be dust. That is the power of the Oprah effect.

She took us into her mother's living room, where she watched the 1964 Academy Awards in the "cheap seats." But it didn't matter: When she saw Anne Bancroft present Sidney Poitier with an Oscar, she knew she was witnessing something momentous. Eighteen years later, Poitier accepted the award named for DeMille. It gave Winfrey and so many other children of that era — like my mother — hope.

I felt the same twinge as I watched Oprah become the first black woman to take home the DeMille Award.

She drew applause by pointing out that sexual abuse isn't just an unfortunate story in the entertainment industry, but one of all women, "transcending culture, geography, race, religion, politics, and the workplace." Instead of telling her own story of sexual assault, Winfrey graciously retold the story of Recy Taylor, a young wife and mother who in 1944 was raped by six white men while walking home from church. The NAACP took the case at the urging of Rosa Parks, but the men were never brought to justice. By bringing up Taylor's story, Oprah expanded her speech to something other than herself.

The DeMille is an award given in honor of an extraordinary career. But Oprah, as she has done throughout her time in the spotlight, decided to give a platform to another woman, to elevate another woman's story and give it credence.

With true passion in her voice, Winfrey hoped that Taylor died knowing what Winfrey believes in her heart is the truth — all women's truth, that "their time is up."

That truth, Winfrey said, "was somewhere in Rosa Parks' heart

**By ELIZABETH WELLINGTON**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



almost 11 years later, when she made the decision to stay seated on that bus in Montgomery, and it's here with every woman who chooses to say, "Me too." And every man — every man who chooses to listen."

When the camera panned to Tarana Burke, the founder of #MeToo, I saw tears in her eyes.

Everything about Sunday night's Golden Globes — from the powerful sea of black to red carpet hosts dropping the "Who are you wearing?" question to Winfrey's rousing speech — reinforced for me that entertainment has a place in social change, and that fashion is integral to that.

Not because we need the rich and famous to lead us by our impressionable noses. But because, as Winfrey proved phenomenally, that the rich and famous and everyday folk trying to survive aren't much different from one another. We all deal with pain and joy. We are all overcoming. We all have a sense of right and wrong. We are all just trying to live.

We are all just human.

Even Oprah.

"What I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have," Winfrey said. "And I'm especially proud and inspired by all the women who have felt strong enough and empowered enough to speak up and share their personal stories. Each of us in this room are celebrated because of the stories that we tell, and this year we became the story."

That's true for all of us, whether we were wearing black on the red carpet or sitting in our cheap seats, wiping back tears.

# The Weather

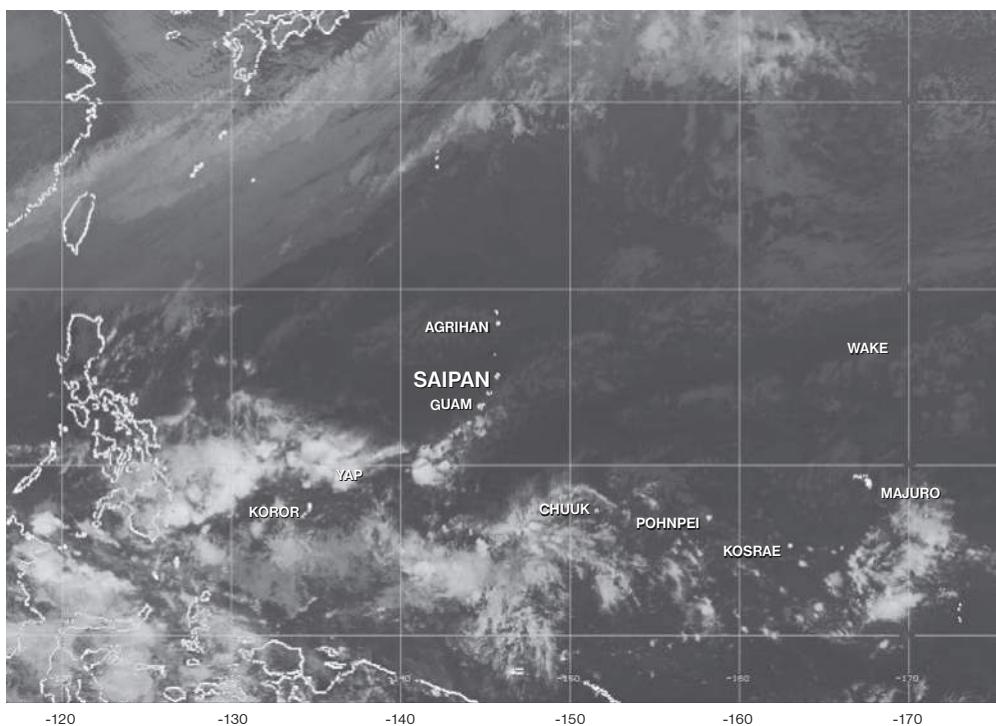
## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A partly cloudy sky was found early this morning across most of the Marianas with mostly cloudy conditions for Guam. There were some isolated showers evident on radar. Combined seas are between 6 and 8 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°

## AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	28° / 9°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 48°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Miami	Thunderstorms	76° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	40° / 33°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	39° / 30°
Paris	Showers	48° / 37°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	36° / 16°
Rome	Showers	57° / 39°
Salem	Cloudy	65° / 56°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	56° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	18° / 1°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 30°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	45° / 35°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

2:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.31
8:09 AM	LOW TIDE	0.74
2:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
9:53 PM	LOW TIDE	0.37

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:56 am	1:02 pm	-
Thursday	1:45 am	1:42 pm	-
Friday	2:34 am	2:23 pm	-
Saturday	3:23 am	3:06 pm	-
Sunday	4:12 am	3:51 pm	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				LJ651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			

# Business

## Apple investors urge action to curb child gadget addiction

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Two major Apple investors have urged the iPhone maker to help curb smartphone addiction among children, highlighting growing concern about the effects of gadgets and social media on youngsters.

New York-based Jana Partners LLC and the California State Teachers' Retirement System said in open letter to Apple that the company must offer more choices and tools to help children fight addiction to its devices. The two investors collectively control \$2 billion worth of Apple shares.

"Apple can play a defining role in signaling to the industry that paying special attention to the health and development of the next generation is both good business and the right thing to do," the letter said.

Among their proposals to Apple: Establish a committee of experts, including child development specialists; offer Apple's "vast information resources" to researchers; and enhance mobile device software so that parents have more options to protect their children's health.

In a statement, Apple said the iPhone and other devices

running on its mobile software already offer a variety of controls that enable parents to restrict or block "effectively anything a child could download or access online."

The investors' letter cited various studies on the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children's mental and physical health. Examples include distractions by digital technologies in the classroom, a decreased ability of students to focus on educational tasks, and higher risks of suicide and depression.

A study published in November suggested that heavy smartphone use and social media exposure among teens may contribute to depression and other traits linked with suicide. But that and similarly designed research cannot rule out that already troubled teens may be more likely than others to be frequent users of smartphones and social media.

In its most recent update on teens and media use, the American Academy of Pediatrics said in 2016 that social media and internet use have benefits and potential risks for teens. It urged families to create their own media use plans



that include consistent time and content limits.

The American Psychiatric Association does not consider heavy internet use a true mental addiction and says more research is needed.

The letter released Saturday touches upon the growing concerns about the long-term impact of gadgets and social media, especially for those who start to use smartphones at an early age.

While tech companies have

not acknowledged openly that their gadgets may be addictive, some Silicon Valley insiders have begun to speak about how gadgets, mobile applications and social media sites are designed to be addictive and to keep users' attention as long as possible.

Facebook's founding president, Sean Parker, said recently, for example, that the company exploits a "vulnerability in human psychol-

ogy" to addict its users. He called its stream of comments, "likes" and reactions a "social validation feedback loop that exploits how human brains work." And, he said, "God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains."

James Steyer, the CEO of Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that studies kids' technology use, called the letter a "big deal" in the ongoing effort to make it clear that

AP

In this Dec. 17, 2017, photo, a baby girl plays with a mobile phone while riding in a New York subway.

cellphones are a "public health concern."

"It's the beginning of a much bigger conversation about these issues and it's great that shareholders care about it," he said.

Apple said it regularly considers how the iPhone and its other products affect the people who use them. "We take this responsibility very seriously and we are committed to meeting and exceeding our customers' expectations, especially when it comes to protecting kids," the company said.

Steyer said Apple is in a position to do more. Among other things, he said, Apple can finance independent research on the effects of mobile phone use and pay for public education campaigns that teach parents and kids about responsible technology use. He said Apple can also design addiction-prevention features, such as an automatic shut-off after an hour.

## Samsung's profit jumps 64 percent to record high on chips

### SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—Samsung Electronics said its October-December operating profit jumped 64 percent to a record high, capping off 2017 with the biggest annual operating income and sales in its history thanks to the blockbuster semiconductor business.

In its earnings preview Tuesday, the South Korean company put its operating profit at 15.1 trillion won (\$14.1 billion) for the final three months of last year, compared with 9.2 trillion won a year earlier.

The result, however, missed expectations. Analysts polled by financial data firm FactSet expected 16.2 trillion won in operating profit. Analysts lowered their views on Samsung last month, citing the one-time bonuses to employees and the appreciation of the local currency against the U.S. dollar. Nomura estimates that Samsung spent 700 billion won (\$655 million) as bonuses to employees.

Fourth-quarter sales rose 24 percent to 66 trillion won (\$61.8

billion), also at a record high.

For the entire year, Samsung's operating income stood at 53.6 trillion won (\$50.2 billion), a 83-percent surge from 2016, on sales of 239.6 trillion won (\$224.2 billion), up 19 percent from the previous year.

Samsung did not give a quarterly net profit or breakdown figures for each businesses. The company is due to disclose more details of its financial performance later this month.

What drove Samsung's monstrous year was the company's semiconductor division, which has been cashing in on the skyrocketing demand and prices of memory chips.

The world's demand for more storage for pictures, videos, files and other digital data in their gadgets and servers, as well as demand for more computing power to run many programs faster, pushed up demand for memory chips that are dominated by Samsung.

Samsung controls about half of the world's DRAM memory chips that temporar-

## Fired Google engineer's suit alleges reverse discrimination

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—A Google engineer fired for writing a memo questioning Google's commitment to diversity has filed a lawsuit alleging his ouster was driven by a corporate culture that discriminates against white men and people with conservative views, including supporters of President Donald Trump.

The 161-page complaint filed Monday on behalf of James Damore and another former Google engineer depicts Google as an elitist company that shuns employees who dare to deviate from a liberal agenda embraced by its management and most of its workforce.

The lawsuit was filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court and comes five months after Google fired Damore for writing a 10-page memo entitled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber." In that missive, Damore criticized Google for pushing mentor-

ing and diversity programs and for "alienating conservatives." He also blamed biological differences for the paucity of women in tech.

Damore, 28, says he submitted early versions of his memo to Google's human resources department without being reprimanded. Just a few days after Damore posted the memo on an internal message board, it was leaked to a technology blog. Google fired him Aug. 7 amid an uproar among workers offended by its themes.

Now, Damore and his lawyer, former Republican Party official Harmeet Dhillon, are retaliating with a lawsuit that puts a new twist on Silicon Valley's lack of diversity—an issue that has been a prickly subject in the technology industry for years.

Google, Facebook, Apple and their peers have all publicly acknowledged their workforces are out of step with the

rest of society because they employ mostly white and Asian men in engineering jobs and other high-paying positions requiring computer programming skills.

As a remedy, the companies say they have been aggressively hiring women, blacks and Hispanics, but they have barely titled the scales so far.

Dhillon is hoping to use Damore's case to prove that Google has set illegal quotas that discriminate against white men like Damore.

The complaint also seeks to be certified as a class action that will represent all current and former Google workers who believe they were discriminated against during the past four years for expressing conservative viewpoints, a group that also could include women.

Google said it looks forward to defending itself against Damore's accusations in court.



### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
25,283.00  
-12.87  
-0.051%

**S&P**  
2,747.71  
+4.56  
0.17%

**NASDAQ**  
7,157.39  
+20.83  
0.29%

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	<b>1.2753</b>	Hong Kong Dollar	<b>7.8215</b>	Russian Ruble	<b>57.0906</b>
British Pound	<b>0.7384</b>	Indian Rupee	<b>62.8316</b>	Singapore Dollar	<b>1.3318</b>
Canadian Dollar	<b>1.2404</b>	Japanese Yen	<b>113.1770</b>	South Korean Won	<b>1041.00</b>
Chinese Yuan	<b>6.3842</b>	Malaysian Ringgit	<b>3.9532</b>	Swiss Franc	<b>0.9768</b>
Euro	<b>0.8358</b>	New Zealand Dollar	<b>1.3935</b>	Taiwan Dollar	<b>29.0464</b>
		Philippine Peso	<b>49.2065</b>	Thailand Baht	<b>32.1785</b>

# Nation

## US ends protections for Salvadoran immigrants

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Trump administration's decision to end special protections for about 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants filled many Salvadoran families with dread Monday, raising the possibility that they will be forced to abandon their roots in the U.S. and return to a violent homeland they have not known for years, even decades.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen gave Salvadorans with temporary protected status until Sept. 9, 2019, to leave the United States or face deportation. El Salvador becomes the fourth country since President Donald Trump took office to lose protection under the program, which provides humanitarian relief for people whose countries are hit with natural disasters or other strife.

The decision, while not surprising, was a severe blow to Salvadorans in New York, Houston, San Francisco and other major cities that have welcomed them since at least the 1980s.

Guillermo Mendoza, who came to the United States in 2000 when he was 19 years old, was anguished about what to do with his wife and two children who are U.S. citizens.

"What do I do? Do I leave the country and leave them here? That is a tough decision," said Mendoza, a safety manager at Shapiro & Duncan, a mechanical contractor company in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington.

Orlando Zepeda, who came to the U.S. in 1984 fleeing civil war in El Salvador, said the lack of surprise



U.S. citizen Benjamin Zepeda, 14, with his mother Lorena Zepeda, who benefits from Temporary Protected Status have their photo taken after a news conference in Los Angeles, Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. AP

does not ease the sting for the 51-year-old Los Angeles-area man who works in building maintenance and has two American-born children.

"It's sad, because it's the same story of family separation from that time, and now history repeats itself with my children," Zepeda said in Spanish.

Many immigrants hope Congress can deliver a long-term reprieve by September 2019. If that fails, they face a grim choice: return to El Salvador voluntarily or live in the U.S. illegally under an administration that has dramatically increased deportation arrests.

Cristian Chavez Guevara, a

37-year-old Salvadoran immigrant in Houston who is raising two American stepchildren and a young cousin, said the decision would tear apart his family. He was unsure what to do.

"I have been building dreams for the future and raising hope for a better future not just for me but for my family," he said. "All of that came to a halt."

The action presents a serious challenge for El Salvador, a country of 6.2 million people whose economy counts on money sent by wage earners in the U.S. Over the past decade, growing numbers of Salvadorans—many coming as families

or unaccompanied children—have entered the United States illegally through Mexico, fleeing violence and poverty.

In September 2016, the Obama administration extended protections for 18 months, saying El Salvador was still suffering the lingering effects of earthquakes in 2001 that killed more than 1,000 people. The administration said the country was temporarily unable to absorb such a large number of returning people.

Nielsen, who faced a Monday deadline on another extension, concluded that El Salvador has received significant international aid to recover from the earthquake, and

homes, schools and hospitals there have been rebuilt.

"The substantial disruption of living conditions caused by the earthquake" no longer exists, the department said in a statement.

El Salvador President Salvador Sanchez Ceren spoke by phone Friday with Nielsen to renew his plea to extend status for 190,000 Salvador-

ans and allow more time for Congress to deliver a long-term fix for them to stay in the U.S. The country's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez, said Monday's decision underscored a need for Congress to act.

The 18-month delay was small comfort for Teresa Salmeron, a Salvadoran woman who has relatives working in the United States.

"What are they going to do here? There is no work here," she said. "I live on the money they send home."

Democratic leaders and immigrant advocacy groups criticized the move. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi called it "a heartbreaking blow to nearly a quarter of a million hard-working Salvadorans who are American in every way." Rep. Bennie Thompson, ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said it was "just the latest in a string of heartless, xenophobic actions from the Trump administration."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called it "heartbreaking" and said "many families will be devastated."

However, groups advocating immigration restrictions called it an important step for the humanitarian program's credibility.

### Costly weather disasters: \$306B

**WASHINGTON** —With three strong hurricanes, wildfires, hail, flooding, tornadoes and drought, the United States tallied a record high bill last year for weather disasters: \$306 billion.

The U.S. had 16 disasters last year with damage exceeding a billion dollars, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday. That ties 2011 for the number of billion-dollar disasters, but the total cost blew past the previous record of \$215 billion in 2005.

Costs are adjusted for inflation and NOAA keeps track of billion-dollar weather disasters going back to 1980.

Three of the five most expensive hurricanes in U.S. history hit last year.

Hurricane Harvey, which caused massive flooding in

Texas, cost \$125 billion, second only to 2005's Katrina, while Maria's damage in Puerto Rico cost \$90 billion, ranking third, NOAA said.

Irma was \$50 billion, mainly in Florida, for the fifth most expensive hurricane.

NOAA announced its figures at the society's annual conference in Austin, Texas.

The U.S. averages six of the billion-dollar weather disasters each year, costing a bit more than \$40 billion annually.

## AP source: Mueller conveys interest in questioning Trump

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Special counsel Robert Mueller's team of investigators has expressed interest in speaking with President Donald Trump as part of a probe into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, a person familiar with the matter said Monday.

The prospect of an interview with the president has come up in recent discussions between Mueller's team and Trump lawyers, but no details have been worked out, including the scope of questions that the president would agree to answer if an interview were to actually take place, according to the person. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

When or even if an inter-

view would occur was not immediately clear, nor were the terms for the interview or whether Trump's lawyers would seek to narrow the range of questions or topics that prosecutors would cover. Trump's lawyers have previously stated their determination to cooperate with Mueller's requests.

It's not surprising that investigators would ultimately seek to interview the president given his role in several episodes under scrutiny by Mueller. Any interview of Trump would be a likely indication that the investigation was in its final stages—investigators typically look to interview main subjects in their inquiries near the end of a probe.

Mueller for months has led a team of prosecutors and agents investigating whether

Russia and Trump's Republican campaign coordinated to sway the 2016 election, and whether Trump has worked to obstruct an FBI investigation into his aides, including by firing the FBI director, James Comey.

Comey has said that several months before he was dismissed, Trump told him he hoped he would end an investigation into his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Mueller's team recently concluded a series of interviews with many current and former White House aides, including former chief of staff Reince Priebus and the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

Four people have been charged so far, including Flynn, who pleaded guilty in

December to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador. Former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was indicted on charges tied to foreign lobbying work.

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment, as did Trump lawyers John Dowd and Jay Sekulow.

Trump did not rule out the possibility of being questioned

by Mueller when asked about it at a news conference Saturday.

He said there had been

"no collusion" and "no crime."

"But we have been very open," Trump said. "We could have done it two ways. We could have been very closed and it would have taken years. But you know, it's sort of like, when you've done nothing wrong, let's be open and get it over with."

# Asia

## 2 Koreas say they seek breakthrough at rare border talks

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Senior officials from the rival Koreas said Tuesday that they would try to achieve a breakthrough in their long-strained ties as they sat for rare talks at the border to discuss how to cooperate in next month's Winter Olympics in the South and other issues.

The Koreas' first talks in two years were arranged after North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un recently made an abrupt push for improved ties with South Korea after a year of elevated tensions with the outside world over his expanding nuclear and missile programs. Critics say Kim may be trying to divide Seoul and Washington in a bid to weaken international pressure and sanctions on the North.

"I think we should be engaged in these talks with an earnest, sincere manner to give a New Year's first gift—precious results (of the talks) to the Korean nation," chief North Korean delegate Ri Son Gwon said at the start of the negotiations, according to media foot-



The sun rises over a barbed wire fence near the Unification Bridge, which leads to the Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone in Paju, South Korea, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018. AP

age from the venue. Ri wore a lapel pin with the images of Kim's father and grandfather, late North Korean rulers Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung.

Ri's South Korean counter-

part, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, said he also hopes they would come up with a "good gift" that would satisfy Korean people's wishes for better ties. "There is a saying 'well begun is half done.' I'd like us to have will and patience to resolve (issues) at the negotiation," Cho said.

The talks were being held at the village of Panmunjom, the only place on the tense border where North and South Korean soldiers are feet away from each other. A North Korean soldier late last year defected to the South amid a hail of bullets fired by his comrades. He was hit five times but survived.

Despite the seeming amicable start of the talks, the prospect for the negotiations was unclear. The two Koreas have a long history of ending key

talks without any agreement and failing to follow through with rapprochement accords.

South Korean officials said they would focus first on Olympic cooperation in

Tuesday's talks before dealing with tougher political and military issues. The government of South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in wants North Korea to take part in the Feb. 9-25 Games as a way to improve relations.

It's likely the two Koreas agree on the North's Olympic participation, but they remain sharply at odds over how to improve their overall ties.

Moon's government wants to resume temporary reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 war and work out substantial measures to reduce animosities at the bor-

der. North Korea is expected to demand rewards in turn, like Seoul halting propaganda broadcasts and scaling back or halting military drills with the U.S., observers say.

Suspension of the military drills would be unacceptable for Seoul because that would seriously undermine the alliance with its chief ally the United States, which wants to put more pressures on Pyongyang. The North views the drills as a rehearsal for a northward invasion.

"As President Moon has said, the improvement of relations between North and South Korea cannot advance separately from resolving North Korea's nuclear program," Brian Hook, a chief adviser to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, told reporters in a conference call

late Monday Washington time. "And so, we remain focused on our global pressure campaign. That campaign is designed to bring Kim Jong Un to the table for meaningful negotiations."

President Donald Trump on Saturday expressed hope for some progress from the talks and said he was open to talking with Kim himself. But U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley later said the U.S. administration isn't changing its conditions regarding talks with North Korea, saying Kim would first need to stop weapons testing for a "significant amount of time."

In his New Year's Day address, Kim said there is an urgent need to improve inter-Korean ties and that he is willing to send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Games. He urged Seoul to halt the military drills with the U.S. and said he has a "nuclear button" to launch missiles at any target in the United States.

Moon, who favors dialogue as a way to defuse the North Korean nuclear standoff, welcomed Kim's outreach and proposed talks at Panmunjom. Kim quickly accepted.

The Trump administration agreed last week to delay springtime military drills with South Korea until after the Games. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis insisted the delay was a practical necessity to accommodate the Olympics, not a political gesture.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistan releases 147 Indians jailed for illegal fishing

**LAHORE, Pakistan** (AP)—A Pakistani official says 147 Indians detained for fishing illegally have been released from prison and handed over to Indian authorities. The South Asian rivals often arrest fishermen suspected of trespassing in their territorial waters and then periodically release large numbers of them in what is billed as goodwill gestures. Pakistan released 145 Indian fishermen last month and 220 the previous year. India reciprocated after the 2016 release, but freed a smaller number of Pakistani fishermen. Maj. Azam Sher, spokesman for Pakistan's paramilitary rangers, said the 147 were allowed to cross the

border into India on Monday. There was no immediate comment from the Indian side.

#### Second US military chopper makes emergency landing in Japan

**TOKYO** (AP)—A U.S. military helicopter made an emergency landing Monday in Japan's Okinawa islands, the second such incident in three days. A Marine Corps AH-1 attack helicopter with two people aboard landed in a field at a waste disposal site in the town of Yomitan on Okinawa's main island, according to Japanese media reports. No injuries were reported. Photos showed an apparently intact helicopter parked in a grassy area. The U.S. side told police that a

warning light had indicated a problem with the aircraft, public broadcaster NHK said. The Marines said in a statement that the helicopter had been repaired and would return to base as quickly as possible. "We remain committed to both the safety of our neighbors in the communities in which we live and the safety of the Marines who fly on our aircraft," it said.

#### Huge Philippine procession secured tightly amid terror fears

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A massive crowd of mostly barefoot Filipino Catholics has joined an annual procession of a centuries-old black statue of Jesus Christ under extra-tight secu-

rity after the Philippines came under a disastrous pro-Islamic State group attack last year. Philippine police and military deployed more than 6,000 personnel, including snipers and bomb squads backed by a surveillance helicopter and drones, to secure the procession of the wooden Black Nazarene on Tuesday along Manila's streets. Authorities say no specific terrorist threat has been monitored. More than 600 devotees have been treated mostly for minor injuries and exhaustion. Hundreds of militants laid siege for five months in southern Marawi city, leaving more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead in the worst IS group-linked attack so far in Asia. Troops crushed the uprising in October.

## Gays marry in midnight wedding ceremonies across Australia

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Same-sex couples married in midnight ceremonies across Australia on Tuesday after the country's last legal impediment to gay marriage expired.

Marriage equality became law on Dec. 9 with overwhelming support in Parliament, but Australia's requirement that all couples give a month's notice for weddings made Tuesday the first possible date for gay marriages.

Athletes Craig Burns and Luke Sullivan married at a midnight ceremony near the east coast city of Tweed Heads.

"It's another way to show your love and appreciation of your partner in front of the people in your life," said Burns, a 29-year-old sprinter who will compete in the Commonwealth Games in Australia's Gold Coast in April.

In Newcastle, north of Sydney, Rebecca Hickson, 32, married her partner of nine years, Sarah Turnbull, 34.

Hickson described the divisive build-up to a gay marriage ballot preceding Parliament's vote as "a horrible time." She said the couple wanted to be part of history by becoming one of the first lesbian couples to marry in Australia.

In the west coast city of Perth, Kelly and Sam Pilgrim-Byrne solemnized their 24-year-old relationship in

Lainey Carmichael, 51, and Roz Kitschke, 46, married shortly after dawn before 65 guests at their home in the town of Franklin in the island state of Tasmania.

The early ceremony was mainly to avoid the summer heat, Kitschke said. "New day; new era—and we don't like the heat that much," she said.

Wedding guest Rodney Croome, a long-time marriage equality advocate and spokesperson for Tasmanians United for Marriage Equality, said: "This morning's wedding marked the start of a new chapter in the lives of the two brides but also a new chapter in the life of the nation."

"Today we are a more equal and inclusive country that treats all loving, committed couples the same," Croome said in a statement.

# World

## Venezuelans scour polluted river for lost treasure, survival

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP)—Angel Villanueva waded into the dirty brown water of the Guaire River, the putrid channel snaking through Venezuela's capital, where he hoped to scavenge for a bit of treasure.

He raked his hands across the bottom of the shallow waterway, turning his face away from the foul smell. Then he stood up, letting gravel and rocks fall through his fingers, scanning for an earring backring, lost rings or any other bits of precious metal to cash in for food.

Scavenging alongside two others, Villanueva, 26, kept an eye on the dark clouds buffeting the mountains that surround Caracas. They could burst at any time, leaving him minutes to get out—or be washed away to his death.

"Working in the Guaire isn't easy," he said, talking over the roar of traffic on a nearby highway. "When it provides, it provides. When it takes, it takes your life."

Images of poor Venezuelans eating from garbage piles in Caracas have come to symbolize the deepening economic crisis in what was once one of Latin America's wealthiest countries. Less visible are the young men and boys who comb the Guaire's dirty waters for any sliver of metal that might help feed their families.

They appear at times to be playing, shirtless and laughing in groups. The sun reflects off their rounded backs as they bend, scoop up rocks and toss them aside with a splash.

The water is notoriously filthy—a drain for rainwater from the streets and sewers, along with industrial waste and



In this Dec. 5, 2017 photo, David Garcia keeps his head just barely above water as he scrapes the bottom of the polluted Guaire River in search of gold and anything of value to sell in Caracas, Venezuela. AP

an occasional treasure.

"As long as I can remember, the Guaire was this open sewerage," said Alejandro Velasco, a native of Caracas and professor of Latin American history at New York University. "It certainly seems to reflect the depth and extent of the desperation that this particular crisis has spawned."

Nearly two decades of socialist rule in which food and oil production have plummeted amid poor management of state resources and a drop in world crude prices have driven many Venezuelans into desperation.

Each morning, scavengers stream down to the Guaire from hillside barrios. Some wrap their fingertips in tape to protect from cuts and infections, ig-

noring any potential long-term health effects from standing in foul water for hours each day.

Calls to clean up the river and the millions already spent have had no result.

The late President Hugo Chavez acknowledged the river's filthy state in 2005 and pledged a full cleanup. "I will invite you all to go for a swim in the Guaire—soon," he vowed on television.

The Inter-American Development Bank in 2012 stepped up with a \$300 million loan, launching an ambitious project to build wastewater plants and treat sewage that goes into the river.

Nearly six years later, the water remains filthy, the cleanup project achieving a fraction of

its goal. Bank officials declined to comment on the project and Venezuelan government leaders have also been silent on when it might be cleaned.

Some stretches of the river smell of sewage while others emit a toxic odor reminiscent of fuel, a stench that stays in your nose for hours after leaving its banks.

The Guaire again drew attention in mid-2017 when residents protesting President Nicolas Maduro's rule waded across the river to escape choking tear gas fired by riot officers.

Most days, the river scavengers go unnoticed by other Caracas residents as they speed

## Smuggling boat sinks in Mediterranean, 64 feared dead

ROME (AP)—As many as 64 African migrants, including a mother whose surviving 3-year-old child desperately clung to her as she drowned, are feared dead after a traffickers' overcrowded rubber dinghy from Libya started sinking in the Mediterranean Sea, officials said Monday.

The Italian coast guard rescued 86 people from the boat hours after it started sinking Saturday morning after it took on water and started deflating, a U.N. migration agency official said.

Specially trained rescue divers leapt into the water to pull dozens to safety, including those who managed to stay aboard the half-submerged dinghy as well as others already flailing in nearby cold waters.

Eight bodies were recovered on Saturday. Officials at the time said the corpses were all women, but U.N. migration officials who met the rescue ship when it arrived Monday in Catania, Sicily, said two of the eight dead were adult men.

Since trafficking dinghies are often crammed with far more than 100 migrants, fears quickly arose Saturday that dozens more could be missing in the sinking. An Italian coast guard search that went through the night didn't find any more

survivors or corpses.

Flavio Di Giacomo of the International Organization for Migration said in tweet Monday that survivors interviewed by the agency in Catania said 150 people had been aboard the dinghy when it set out from a Libyan beach east of Tripoli.

"Sixty-four migrants lost their life in the shipwreck (which) occurred last Saturday," Di Giacomo said, saying "probably 56 missing migrants" perished at sea.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Di Giacomo said the dinghy was packed and made of poor quality rubber. Some eight hours into the Mediterranean crossing, "water started pouring in, panic ensued, the migrants all moved to one side, and the boat lost its balance and was deflating."

Some migrants managed to cling to the portion of the dinghy that wasn't submerged but many others fell into the sea, he said, adding that the Italian coast guard arrived quickly, about a half hour after being spotted by a European naval aircraft.

Catania Mayor Enzo Bianco told Italian Radio Radicale that among the survivors was a child who lost her mother.

"I watched a 3-year-old girl while she was starting to

overhead on an elevated highway, blocked from view by concrete barriers.

A woman pushing a baby stroller across an overpass on a rare vantage point looked down at dozens in the water.

"What a shame for our country," she said.

Villanueva lives with his father, a retired military man, in one of the poorest and most dangerous barrios in Caracas. He still struggles with his mother's death from a stroke. She had urged him to go to college.

Villanueva wanted to earn money, but he could only land a series of low-paying state jobs, such as sweeping the streets. The minimum wage for public employees in Venezuela is less than \$7 a month at the black market exchange rate.

Food has become increasingly hard to find or afford. An estimated 75 percent of Venezuelans lost an average of 19 pounds (8.7 kilograms) last year, according to one recent survey.

Villanueva first waded into the river six months ago, invited by a friend. His first day's work cashed in at \$20, and he was hooked, despite jibes back in his neighborhood from those who tell him to stay away because he smells like the Guaire.

They play at the port here. She was saved, grabbed at the last second by the coast guard in the sea," the mayor said. "She was clinging to her mother and she saw her drown."

Bianco said the child is now with her aunt, who was among the survivors.

All of the missing are adults, Di Giacomo said, adding that three other children survived, boys aged 2, 9 and 10.

The migrants came from Mali, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Senegal and Nigeria, he said.

A doctor said some of the survivors needed cardiopulmonary resuscitation when they were brought aboard the rescue ship.

"We can proudly say that many among those we resuscitated are now alive," said Dr. Maria Rita Aglizotto, who was aboard the coast guard rescue ship with a paramedic. "Unfortunately some of them did not make it."

She said the surviving children are in good condition.

"We still have to reconstruct their personal stories, because the children are shocked and didn't answer our questions. It's a step-by-step process, hopefully they will work through what happened," Aglizotto said.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Puerto Rico police chief resigns as killings, absences spike

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's first female police chief resigned Monday amid a spike in killings while thousands of officers continue to call in sick to protest the lack of overtime pay. The island's governor said retired military officer Michelle Hernandez was stepping down after one year of overseeing one of the largest police departments under U.S. jurisdiction. Officials did not provide further details, and Hernandez did not immediately return a call for comment through her spokeswoman. Puerto Rico had recorded 23 killings as of Sunday, compared with nine in the same period last year, police spokesman Carlos Rivera told The Associated Press. This year's

#### Macedonia takes emergency measures against air pollution

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)—Macedonian authorities have made public transport temporarily free for all in the capital Skopje, as part of a batch of emergency measures to fight high air pollution levels. The government said Monday that pollution in Skopje was recorded at more than four times above safety levels and that it has decided to ban heavy vehicles entering the city center. It has also excused pregnant women and people over 60 years of age from work. Skopje has severe air pollution problems every winter, as a result of industrial emissions, smoke from wood-burning stoves and exhaust fumes from old cars. The measures will remain in effect until pollution levels drop.

# Focus

## Retail workers feel disruption from shifting shopper habits

**NEW YORK** (AP)—With new options and conveniences, there's never been a better time for shoppers. As for workers ... well, not always.

The retail industry is being radically reshaped by technology, and nobody feels that disruption more starkly than 16 million American shelf stockers, salespeople, cashiers and others. The shifts are driven, like much in retail, by the Amazon effect—the explosion of online shopping and the related changes in consumer behavior and preferences.

As mundane tasks like checkout and inventory are automated, employees are trying to deliver the kind of customer service the internet can't match.

So a Best Buy employee who used to sell electronics in the store is dispatched to customers' homes to help them choose just the right products. A Walmart worker dashes in and out of the grocery aisles, hand-picks products for online shoppers and brings them to people's cars.

**Editor's note:** This story is part of Future of Work, an Associated Press series that explores how workplaces across the U.S. and the world are being transformed by technology and global pressures. As more employers move, shrink or revamp their work sites, many employees are struggling to adapt. At the same time, workers with in-demand skills or knowledge are benefiting. Advanced training, education or know-how is becoming a required ticket to the 21st-century workplace.

Yet even as responsibilities change—and in many cases, expand—the average growth in pay for retail workers isn't keeping pace with the rest of the economy. Some companies say that in the long run the transformation could mean fewer retail workers, though they may be better paid. But while some workers feel more satisfied, others find their jobs are just a lot less fun.

Bloomingdale's saleswoman Brenda Moses remembers the pre-internet era, when the upscale store was regularly filled with customers ready to buy. These days, department stores are less crowded and the customers who do come in can make price comparisons on their phones at the same time as they pepper staff with questions.

"You tell them everything, and then they look at you and say, 'You know what? I think I will get it online,'" she said. Moses has seen her com-



**AP**  
In this Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, photo, Laila Ummelaila, a personal shopper at the Walmart store in Old Bridge, N.J., collects items as she shops for online shoppers.

as well—diners order at kiosks and workers prepare the food behind an opaque wall, with virtually no interaction between them.

Labor groups are trying to address some of the new issues. Under a contract reached last May between Bloomingdale's and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Moses and other members who work at the flagship store in Manhattan can also get commissions from some online sales.

And a labor group representing 1.3 million grocery and food workers is trying to combat automation by highlighting that workers' specialized skills—like the care they take in icing a rose on a wedding cake, or arranging flowers, or the ability of human workers to recognize spoiled food—provide a benefit to shoppers.

"Separating progress for the consumer, for the worker, for the economy versus the stockholders ... those are completely different things," says Erikka Knuti, a spokeswoman for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Others say automation and happy workers are not necessarily incompatible.

Walmart's CEO Doug McMillon foresees fewer sales associates at his stores, but they'll be better paid and better trained. Walmart has trained 225,000 supervisors and managers on topics like new apps and better customer service. It says managers who go through the academies have better retention rates than those who do not. Workers who report to those managers stay longer. And entry-level workers who complete a new training program are more likely to remain.

The National Retail Federation trade group points to government data showing that even in large supermarket chains where self-checkout has become standard, the number of employees per store has held steady over the 15 years through 2014. And the demand for grocery cashiers increased in the past few years, says Burning Glass Technologies, a company that analyzes labor market data.

McDonald's says the self-service kiosks it has been rolling out won't result in mass layoffs, but will mean that some cashiers shift roles to accommodate changes like offering table service.

But a report prepared by Cornerstone Capital Group for the Investor Responsibility Research Center Institute predicts that more than 7.5 million retail jobs are at risk of being eliminated by automation over the next several years.

Amazon is testing a grocery store in Seattle without cashiers, using cameras and shelf sensors to keep track of the items that shoppers grab and charge them. Eatsa, an automat-style restaurant in San Francisco, lacks cashiers

mission rate rise to 6 percent from a half a percent, but her hourly wage dropped from \$19 as low as \$10 before it came back up to \$14. Depending more on commissions means her income fluctuates, and she's competing with her colleagues for each sale.

"Now," Moses said, "you have to fight to make your money."

The same could be said for the retailing industry, overall. In 2017, 66,500 U.S. retail jobs disappeared (not taking into account jobs added in areas like distribution and call centers). In the past decade, about one out of every seven jobs have vanished in the hardest-hit sectors like clothing and consumer electronics, says Frank Badillo, director of research at MacroSavvy LLC. Though department stores have suffered the most, smaller businesses also have struggled to compete with online sellers.

Many of the survivors are rushing to adapt. Of the retail jobs that remain, over the next decade as many as 60 percent will either be new kinds of roles or will involve revised duties, says Craig Rowley, senior client partner at Korn Ferry Hay Group, a human resources advisory firm. He estimates the number is about 10 percent now.

How fast retail jobs will change and what they'll look like depends on three factors, Rowley said: the pace at which online shopping advances; the speed at which robotics and other technology progress; and shifts in the minimum hourly pay.

"You start to get to know the customers, you know what they like," she said, "how they like their meat ... and how long they keep milk in the fridge."

Best Buy, meanwhile, has begun a free service in key markets where salespeople will sit with customers in their own homes and make recommendations on setting up a home office to designing a home theater system. Best Buy said shoppers spend more with a home visit than they do at

the stores. The project follows Amazon, which reportedly has been testing a program that sends employees to shoppers' houses for free "smart home" recommendations.

At Steve Frederick's townhouse in Chicago, Billy Schuler offered advice about speakers that can be adjusted from a smartphone. Schuler, who had previously worked at Best Buy for 14 years, returned to the company to take on the new role.

"Customers are more relaxed when they are in their home," he said. "We can do a walkthrough of the house and see their needs." He likes to "break the ice" by calling the person and chatting a day or two before the visit.

Frederick, who's spending close to \$20,000 on the equipment, describes himself as "old-school" and says he needed a lot of help. He thinks it was worthwhile.

"When you are spending that kind of money, you want to have someone come in and explain it," he said.

Schuler declined to give specifics but says he is well compensated. Ummelaila says her pay went up to nearly \$12 per hour from \$10 when she became a personal shopper.

Target credits its strategy of assigning dedicated sales staff in areas such as clothing, consumer electronics, and beauty for helping increase sales, and says having visual merchandisers create vignettes like shoppers would see in specialty stores inspires people to buy. "You are making an outfit and telling a story on each rack," says Crystal Lawrence, who works at a Target store in Brooklyn, New York. She likes the variety in her new job, and Target says it plans to keep paying higher wages for those specialized roles.

But a survey of nearly 300 retail workers—conducted by

# Good Housekeeping



## Your January day-by-day garden chore calendar

With deadheading and pruning, protecting and securing to be done, this is no time to rest on your laurels. Pull on your boots and gloves, and tend to these chores and concerns.

TNS

By JESSICA DAMIANO  
NEWSDAY

I see you, cuddled up by the fire in your new footsie pajamas, sipping on cocoa (or is that mulled wine?) without a care in the world. Snap out of it! I know your garden was beautiful last summer, but with deadheading and pruning, protecting and securing to be done, this is no time to rest on your laurels. Pull on your boots and gloves, and tend to these chores and concerns.

You may resent me now, but you'll thank me in April.

**1** Happy New Year! It's time to start something new, like a compost pile. Get instructions at newsday.com/gardening101.

**2** As long as there isn't any snow cover and the soil is soft enough to dig into, you can still tuck any unplanted bulbs into the ground.

**3** If you received gift plants for the holidays, quarantine them for two weeks to ensure they aren't harboring pests.

**4** Avoid walking on frozen or muddy turf; doing so can break grass blades and — worse — damage soil structure, which is very difficult to rectify.

**5** Setting out a bird feeder isn't enough: You need to keep it clean and stocked. And don't forget water.

**6** It's the Epiphany and also time to take down your Christmas tree. Consider using branches to mulch over garden beds to keep soil temperature even and protect roots.

**7** If you planted evergreens this past season, protect them with a burlap wrap to avoid wind and snow damage.

**8** Rotate indoor plant pots a quarter turn every day, and keep away from heat sources.

**9** Check tree branches for gypsy moth egg cases — which look like used chewing gum — and remove, destroy and discard in the trash.

**10** Deadhead flowering houseplants, like African violets, and remove any brown leaf tips.

**11** Every other day, mist houseplants with room-temperature water or run the humidifier to counter dry heat and keep them healthy.

**12** Place orders for seeds and annuals now, before mail- and web-order nurseries run out of your selections.

**13** To protect from winter damage, spray broadleaf evergreens with an anti-desiccant — but only when the temperature is above 40 degrees.

**14** Check on stored bulbs and corms, and sprinkle with water if they appear dry. Discard any that have shriveled or rotted.

**15** Be vigilant and remove broken or damaged branches from trees after

storms to protect against damage to people and property.

**16** Inspect houseplants for pests, taking care to check under leaves, where many take up residence.

**17** If you rooted cuttings in the fall and they're growing leggy, pinch them back. Change the water, regardless.

**18** Gently rinse dust off houseplant foliage, trim away dead leaves and replant into the next-size pot.

**19** When blooms have faded, deadhead amaryllis, which can be saved for next year, but discard paperwhites.

**20** Check beds and borders for root crowns or bulbs that have heaved out of the soil. Push them back with your foot and cover with mulch.

**21** If ornamental grasses are beginning to look unkempt, you can cut them down. Waiting until March is fine, too.

**22** Hold a pot of steaming water over frozen yard ponds to melt an opening in the surface that will release trapped gasses that can poison fish.

**23** If you didn't clean and disinfect pruners and other hand tools before storing

in fall, do so now.

**24** Check in with bog plants that are overwintering indoors; discard any that are rotting.

**25** Tired of winter? Force early spring blooms by placing garden-cut stems of forsythia, dogwood, honeysuckle, lilac, quince or redbud in a vase indoors.

**26** Take an inventory of leftover seeds and test for viability: wrap a few in a paper towel and keep moist for up to three weeks. If they don't sprout, the entire batch likely won't, either.

**27** In the absence of snow or rain, remember to water evergreens planted within the past year.

**28** Resume fertilizing houseplants, but at half-strength.

**29** Whatever you do, don't get antsy and start vegetable seeds yet. They'll grow too tall and leggy, and lose their vigor by planting time.

**30** Begin pruning dormant fruit trees and be sure to finish by the end of March, or you may sacrifice fruit.

**31** Set indoor miniature roses under grow lights for a few hours after sunset each day to encourage blooming.

### The Garden Bug

Adult squash bugs spend the winter months hiding in sheltered places.

Emerging in the spring, they look for squash and pumpkin plants to feed on the leaves and stems and also to lay eggs.

Plants can be easily destroyed from extensive feeding by these pests. To trap them, leave boards or newspaper out near infested plants; squash bugs will congregate under them at night. In the morning, collect the bugs from their hiding places and destroy them.

Source: [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects)

- Brenda Weaver



# Life & Style

## Kimmel sees Seth Meyers as 'litmus test' for Oscars host

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—As the host of the Oscars in two months, Jimmy Kimmel watched Seth Meyers on the Golden Globes and felt that one of the monologue jokes was written specifically for him.

Meyers on Sunday said he felt like the first dog being sent into outer space, as the first awards show host since the flood of reports about sexual misconduct began with stories about Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's behavior. How would the audience react to jokes about the topic?

"I do thank him for being that litmus test," Kimmel said Monday. The topic will surely be talked about on the Oscars, but he can't write material too far in advance because it's hard to predict what the public mood will be, or if other news breaks in the interim. "Who's to say Harvey Weinstein is going to be alive in two months?"

The "Time's Up" movement took over the Golden Globes, from the comments that winners gave in accepting



Jimmy Kimmel participates in the "Jimmy Kimmel Live and 90th Oscars" panel during the Disney/ABC Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. AP

## Oprah speech has Democrats buzzing about possible 2020 run

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's impassioned call for "a brighter morning even in our darkest nights" at the Golden Globes has Democratic Party activists buzzing about the media superstar and the 2020 presidential race—even if it's only a fantasy.

Even so, for Democrats in early voting states, and perhaps for a public that largely disapproves of President Donald Trump's job performance, the notion of a popular media figure as a presidential candidate is not as strange as it once seemed, given the New York real estate mogul and reality TV star now in the White House.

"Look, it's ridiculous—and I get that," said Brad Anderson, Barack Obama's 2012 Iowa campaign director. While he supports the idea of Winfrey running, it would also punctuate how Trump's candidacy has altered political norms. "At the same time, politics is ridiculous right now."

Winfrey's speech as she accepted the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award on Sunday touched on her humble upbringing and childhood wonder in civil rights heroes.

But it was her exhortation of the legions of women who have called out sexual

harassers—and her dream of a day "when nobody has to say 'me too' again"—that got some political operatives, in early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, thinking Winfrey might be just what the Democrats need.

"I think we need more role models like her that are speaking to young women and trying to restore some hope. The election of Donald Trump was a devastating setback for little girls," said Liz Purdy, who led Democrat Hillary Clinton's 2008 New Hampshire presidential primary campaign.

Trump's job approval rating sat at just 32 percent in December, according to an Associated Press-NORC poll. And though polls show his approval up slightly since, Trump is the least popular first-year president on record. He has also been accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, though he has vehemently denied the allegations.

Winfrey, in September and October, publicly dismissed the notion of seeking the nation's highest office, though she noted that Trump's victory made her rethink the requirements of the office.

A representative for Winfrey did not reply to a request

Monday for comment from The Associated Press. Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, told the Los Angeles Times that "it's up to the people" whether she will be president, adding, "She would absolutely do it."

Winfrey, 64, has become a cultural phenomenon over the past 30-plus years, born into a poor home in Mississippi but breaking through as a television news and talk show personality in the 1980s. Over 30 years, she became the face of television talk shows, starred and produced feature films, and began her own network.

Trump himself has lavished praise on Winfrey over the years, including in 2015, when he said that he would consider her as a running mate on his Republican ticket. "I like Oprah," Trump told ABC News in June 2015. "I think Oprah would be great. I'd love to have Oprah. I think we'd win easily, actually."

It echoed comments Trump made in 1999, when he was weighing a presidential candidacy in the Reform Party. "If she'd do it, she'd be fantastic. I mean, she's popular, she's brilliant, she's a wonderful woman," Trump told CNN's Larry King.

NBC tweeted a picture of a smiling Winfrey un-

der the message, "Nothing but respect for our future president. #goldenglobes." It quickly attracted attention, including Donald Trump Jr.'s. The president's son retweeted it, calling it "strange." The network later deleted the tweet and explained that it was done by a "third party agency" and was a reference to a joke by Golden Globes host Seth Meyers.

Late-night show host Jimmy Kimmel said at a press conference Monday that he thought Winfrey's speech was "preaching to the choir" with her Hollywood audience.

"That said, given the choice between Oprah and our current president, I'm on the bus with Oprah traveling the country encouraging people to sign up and vote," he said.

Some operatives think she has what it takes to be a viable presidential candidate.

"She would be a serious candidate," said Jennifer Palmieri, former White House communications director under President Barack Obama and the communications director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Beyond her rise from poverty, Winfrey's success as a multidimensional media figure has come from pro-

moting ways for women to assert themselves, typically outside the political arena. That could soften what Palmieri describes as an enduring resistance among some voters to women with political ambition.

"I think lessons we all learned from watching Hillary's run, and how her ambition was unfavorably and unfairly viewed, coupled with Oprah's existing popularity, could give Oprah a strong start," Palmieri said.

That's not to say Winfrey can't claim any significant political influence. She notably headlined an Iowa rally for then-Sen. Barack Obama in the weeks leading up to his surprise victory in the state's 2008 leadoff nominating caucuses, which helped propel him to the presidential nomination.

Still, while some Democrats would embrace Winfrey's outsider-celebrity status as the party's answer to Trump, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., noted that Winfrey, like Trump, lacks any kind of experience in government.«

"I think one of the arguments for Oprah is 45," Pelosi said, referring to Trump in shorthand for the 45th president. "I think one of the arguments against Oprah is 45."

the awards to the black outfits worn by attendees to show solidarity for women. Kimmel said it was refreshing how it gave celebrities something to talk about besides fashion on the red carpet.

"How can you argue that this is anything but cool?" he said. "It's a good subject to take on."

One subject sure to come up at the Oscars is last year's epic envelope mix-up in which Warren Beatty mistakenly proclaimed that "La La Land" was the best picture winner instead of "Moonlight." If something that disastrous happens again, "everyone at ABC should be fired," Kimmel said.

Still, the comedian in him admitted that a repeat "would tickle me deeply."

Don't expect ABC to shy away from the moment while promoting the upcoming show. While the network takes what happened seriously, ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said on Monday that "to not have fun with it would be silly."

Kimmel defended one of his stunts from last year's Oscars broadcast, when he surprised a bus full of tourists and brought them into the theater to meet celebrities in the audience. It could have been a disaster. "Some said it was," he said.

But he feels it's important to do something unexpected.

"I do like there to be some danger in the show and I hope that it would be appreciated for what it is," he said. "You don't like to have everything buttoned down, because if you do, you'll bore the audience."

This past year has been a big one for Kimmel, who competes with CBS' Stephen Colbert and NBC's Jimmy Kimmel in late night. He won attention for his emotional monologues on healthcare triggered by the needs of his infant son, who was born with a heart defect. Kimmel dismissed people who argued that he helped save former President Barack Obama's healthcare law when they came at a time Republicans in Congress were considering repeal.

He said it was weird to see the response to speaking out on the topic.

"It is overwhelming and it is silly," he said. "I think that sometimes you get too much credit and too much praise and this has been one of those times. But you have to accept it, because there are times when you feel the whole world is against you and you don't understand why."

# Roseanne Barr: Her TV character's a Trump fan, as should be

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—Roseanne Barr said her character's support for President Donald Trump in the revived sitcom "Roseanne" is a reflection of her own views and also true to the show's roots.

The sitcom brings the Conner family and the life of the country up to date when it debuts March 27 on ABC.

"I've always attempted to portray a realistic portrait of the American people and of working class people. And in fact it was working class people who elected Trump," Barr said Monday.

The show also seeks to address the polarization that



Roseanne Barr participates in the "Roseanne" panel during the Disney/ABC Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. AP

has split families, she said, calling such divisiveness "not American."

The show's extended family represents a "full cross-section of ideas and beliefs," said Bruce Helford, among the executive producers and actors taking part in a Q&A with TV critics. "There's no agenda on anybody's part but to get honest feelings out there, and

within a family that's relatable," Helford said.

Sara Gilbert, who's among the original returning cast members, echoed him.

"People feel like they can't disagree and still love each other and talk to each other. It's a great thing to have a family divided by politics but still filled with love," Gilbert said.

Barr was pushed to defend her character's support for Trump in light of what a reporter called his racism and xenophobia. The question followed a clip from the original

show in which her character vehemently decries her son's apparent racism.

"Well, that's your opinion," Barr replied to the reporter, adding that Trump says "a lot of crazy (expletive)."

"I'm not a Trump apologist," she continued. "There are a lot of things he's said and done I don't agree with, like there's probably a lot of things Hillary Clinton has done and said that you don't agree with. No one's brainwashed into agreeing with 100 percent of what anybody says, let alone a politician or a candidate."

## Versace family calls TV drama unauthorized 'work of fiction'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Versace family is distancing itself from an upcoming TV series about the 1997 murder of famed fashion designer Gianni Versace.

In a statement Monday, his family said it has neither authorized nor been involved in

the series.

Since members of the family didn't authorize the book from which it's partly drawn or participate in the writing of the screenplay, the series should be considered "a work of fiction," the statement said. Gianni Versace was fatally

shot in front of his Miami Beach mansion, a victim of serial killer Andrew Cunanan.

FX's "American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace," based in part on Maureen Orth's book "Vulgar Favors," stars Edgar Ramirez as Versace, Darren Criss as

Cunanan and Penelope Cruz as Donatella Versace. It debuts Jan. 17.

In a joint statement, producers Fox 21 Television Studios and FX Productions defended Orth's book about Cunanan's crimes as "heavily researched and authenticated."

## Prosecutors won't charge Polanski after molestation report

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors will not bring criminal charges against Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski after a woman said he molested her in 1975—when she was 10 years old—because the allegations are too old.

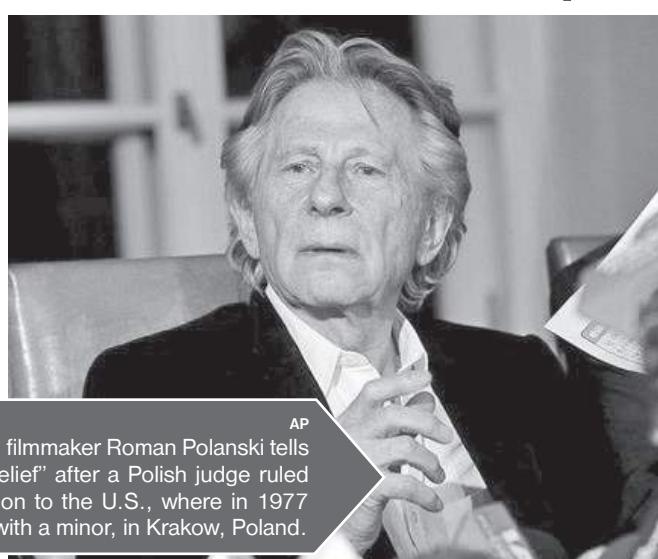
A district attorney's office memo obtained by The Associated Press on Monday says prosecutors were declining to bring charges in the case because the statute of limitations had expired.

The 84-year-old Polanski has been a fugitive since flee-

ing to France in 1978 while awaiting sentencing for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old.

The latest allegations were reported to police in October. The woman said she was molested during a photo shoot in 1975 after Polanski had her pose nude.

Polanski's attorney, Harland Braun, has said the allegations are untrue.



In this Oct. 30, 2015, file photo, filmmaker Roman Polanski tells reporters he can "breathe with relief" after a Polish judge ruled that the law forbids his extradition to the U.S., where in 1977 he pleaded guilty to having sex with a minor, in Krakow, Poland. AP

## Wife wants out of husband's fling in swinging lifestyle

**D**EAR ABBY: My husband, to whom I've been married since July of 2016, has recently caved in to pressure from friends to participate in "swinger" behavior. He wants me to be included, but I really don't want to.

The other female has lesbian tendencies that make me uncomfortable. Her boyfriend is juggling two partners at once, alternating nights for each one. My husband has told him he can do whatever he wants in front of us, which I find awkward and embarrassing.

I don't want to be a spoilsport, but I feel he is being unfair to me. How do I put the genie back in the bottle without ruining my marriage and friendships? We've lived together since 2005, and the pressure is getting worse now that we're married.

NOT TO SWING IN THE USA

**DEAR NOT TO SWING:** If your vision of marriage is a union between two people only, then the man you married is not someone with whom you should spend a lifetime. Do not allow yourself to be coerced into anything you are not comfortable with, and that includes threesomes. Much as you might wish it, you are not going to change your husband, which is why it may be time for you to revisit this subject with him and the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist.

**DEAR ABBY:** I dated a longtime friend, "Austin," for about four months. He had a history of drug use, but had been sober

for about four years before he stopped attending meetings.

I have two children from my previous marriage. He knew when we started dating that if he relapsed, the relationship was over. He did, so I ended it then and there. Austin begged me for a second chance and for my help.

I have known his family for as long as I've known him, which is 20 years. He swore up and down to me that he wouldn't relapse again, but he did and died from an overdose. Austin's family blames me for his death because I didn't answer his calls or messages. How can I explain to them there was nothing I could do?

FAULT ISN'T MINE

**DEAR FAULT:** You were under no ethical or moral obligation to answer Austin's texts or messages after his relapses. Save yourself the frustration of trying to point out the truth to his family. Austin's relatives are in pain right now, and in denial as well. They are blaming you rather than their son because the truth—that Austin was responsible for his own actions and his own death—may be too hard for them to face.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a retired lady who often eats alone in restaurants. When I arrive, the host or hostess usually greets me and asks, "How many?" When I reply, "One," the invariable response is, "Just ONE?" I find the question demeaning and rude.

I have responded with things like "Isn't one enough?" or,

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



"If you prefer groups, I can go elsewhere." I have even mentioned to managers that it would be more appropriate if they trained their hosts not to say "just." Can you offer a better response I can give?

PARTY OF ONE

**DEAR PARTY OF ONE:** I think you are handling the situation as well as it can be handled. Sometimes people don't stop to consider the implications of what they are saying. It's impolite for a host to ask, "Just one?" because in some cases the reply could be depressing and cloud the dining experience.

*Abby* shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43	Posterior	DOWN	19	PC
1 "Hum- bug!"	44	Nest egg acronym	1 Smile broadly	22	Converse
4 Killer whale	46	Fancy neck-	2 Both (Pref.)	23	Jazz legend
8 Just adorable	50	wear Radio	3 Colored	25	Ritz Vaughan
12 Outback bird	51	operator's "I under- stand"	4 Makes up for	26	Lamb alias
13 Dread	52		5 Actor	27	Faxed Stephen
14 Taj Mahal	53	World site	6 Paint	28	Tools container
15 Lincoln	54	Cup cheer	7 Curved lines	29	Ninny Tabby
nickname	55	Declare	8 Tempta- tion	30	"I'm — way!"
16 "Imag- ine!"	56	Japanese soup	9 This briefly	31	"Kon — "
18 Gold- loving king	57	Takes too much,	10 — -la-la	35	Capitol VIP
20 — Juan	58	briefly	11 Chow pads	38	Needle- nose tool
21 Chest muscles, briefly	59	Yoga	12 — la	40	QB's goals
24 Water conduits	60	class	13 Chow down	42	Goof up
28 "Enough!"	61	Luminary	14 Favorite	45	\$ dis- pensers
32 Fishing rod			15 Chatter	47	Hen pen
33 Bristle			16 —	48	Shoppe description
34 Ganges garments			17 —	49	Try out
36 Fall from grace			18 —	50	Bump into
37 Weakling			19 —	51	Eggs
39 "So therel!"			20 —	52	Retrieve
41 Fashion			21 —	53	Smack
Solution time: 23 mins.					
					
Yesterday's answer 1-10					

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Evan Handler, 57; Pat Benatar, 64; George Foreman, 69; Rod Stewart, 73.

**Happy Birthday:** Engage in tactical measures that will lead to a higher standard of living and an improved reputation. Give your all in order to be at your peak performance. Added discipline will be yours to enjoy, so don't waste it on issues or matters that won't make a difference. Focus on what means the most to you. Your numbers are 8, 11, 16, 20, 26, 32, 43.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Do whatever it takes to keep the peace and to accomplish what you set out to do. Know your boundaries and do your best to improve your relationships with peers and personal partners. Revisit your beliefs and goals. **★★★**

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Partnerships are highlighted. Whether of a personal or business nature, expand your communication to include the nitty-gritty details about any plan you want to pursue. Romance will improve your personal life. **★★★**

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): You'll have some great ideas to share, but do the legwork and make sure they are feasible before you get others on board. A serious contributor will cause a disruption if you don't deliver what you promised. **★★★**

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Partnerships are favored. Attending meetings or traveling will be a great source of information. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation if you encounter someone who

interests you. A romantic gesture will enhance your day. **★★★★★**

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems at home will mount if you are careless emotionally or financially. Think before making questionable lifestyle changes. Avoid bad habits and people who are a poor influence. Put your health first and be moderate in all you do. **★★**

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Getting together with friends, relatives or business associates will lead to valuable information that can help you make a vocational choice. Personal relationships can be addressed and plans can be made. Love and romance are on the rise. **★★★★**

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): To avoid letting your home be disrupted, rely on what you know, not what you hear. Accept last-minute changes without making a fuss. The less you complain, the easier it will be to move forward. **★★**

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your emotions will surface and your passion will intensify. Use your persistent powers of persuasion to help you get what you want. Be willing to give and take to make sure everyone comes out a winner. Love is highlighted. **★★★**

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Rely on your intelligence, curiosity and desire to get ahead. Common sense doesn't always come into play when you get excited about something, but beware of anyone who makes an offer that sounds too good to be true. **★★★**

## EUGENIA LAST

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**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take hold of whatever situation you face and do what's right. Your determination and ability to get things done will put you in a position capable of bringing about positive changes. Romance is highlighted. **★★★★**

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Helping others can be invigorating, unlike being taken advantage of. Pick your causes and battles with care. Information pertinent to your decision is likely to be withheld. Take your time and do your own research. **★★★★★**

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): When making a deal, consider what you have to offer and what you want in return. Offer sage advice and your contributions will be well-received and boost your reputation. Romance is in the stars. **★★★★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are persistent, unpredictable and energetic. You are insightful and original.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	9	8	3	4				
8			2	6	4			
5			7			1		
9					7	3		
8						9	4	
2						5		
4					5			
7			3					
2	6							

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
8	2	5	6	1	9	4	7	3
1	9	3	4	2	7	8	5	6
9	1	7	8	5	2	3	6	4
5	6	8	1	4	3	7	2	9
3	4	2	7	9	6	5	8	1
7	3	1	2	8	4	6	9	5
2	8	9	3	6	5	1	4	7
6	5	4	9	7	1	2	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAYFLIES

Solution: 7 letters

S	G	G	L	L	A	M	S	M	A	E	R	T	S	S
E	E	N	B	I	R	D	S	S	L	I	G	A	H	
A	L	I	I	I	S	O	T	R	A	T	S	N	I	P
S	C	W	L	N	O	R	G	C	W	O	D	A	E	M
O	Y	D	S	F	A	T	E	A	E	T	P	R	E	Y
N	C	N	R	R	D	E	U	V	M	S	G	G	E	N
A	E	I	E	E	S	A	L	R	I	I	N	W	A	D
L	F	H	B	S	D	C	H	C	B	R	U	I	D	L
G	I	S	M	H	N	H	Q	S	D	A	D	U	I</td	

# CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Fingers crossed

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

## CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WHATZIT?**  
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



Legislative Bureau  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950



(1) Driver, (1) Inventory Clerk, (2) Sales Representative, (6) Fisherman, (1) Sales Supervisor. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

3-Cook, 2-Beautician, 1-Dressmaker, 1-Commercial Cleaner, 2-Maintenance with at least 2 year experience. Interested applicants call Susan S. Castro at 287-5961.



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-18-002

PL-UNGRADED: \$1,148.36 B/W

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Position: Legislative Assistant

Opening Date: January 10, 2018

Closing Date: January 31, 2018

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills;
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis; and
- Undergo a pre-employment drug test.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate and a police clearance must be attached to the application. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

Employment application may be accessed at [www.cnmleg.gov.mp](http://www.cnmleg.gov.mp) or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director, Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

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of a wish<sup>SM</sup>

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Tel: (670) 483-9474  
Email: [info@guam.wish.org](mailto:info@guam.wish.org)  
[www.guam.wish.org](http://www.guam.wish.org)

*Hasta Adiós!*  
**Saipan Tribune**

**CLICK IT OR TICKET**  
**DAY & NIGHT**



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2018

AMENDED

Opening date: January 3, 2018      Closing date: January 19, 2018

Positions: (5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)  
(5) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on January 19, 2018**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp) or [evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp) by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

### Gemkell Saipan Corp.

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

#### Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

#### Inventory Planner (1)

High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/faximile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

#### Sales Associate, full-time (6) and part-time (2)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to [gemkell\\_recruitment@tanholdings.com](mailto:gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com). To be considered, resumes / application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on January 18, 2018**. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.  
Please call 235-NEWS



**PACIFIC  
ISLANDS  
CLUB** SAIPAN



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.  
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

**(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST**

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and two (2) years supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting is required; CPA certification is preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Simphony, and MAS 90 system (Purchase Order & Inventory Management Module); Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER**

Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience plus three (3) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance from an accredited college or university is required. CPA certification is required; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) skills is required. Experience using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Simphony, MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System, AS400 Payroll System, FAS Asset Accounting Program and Online Bank's Business Connection (Web-Cash Management System) is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR**

Minimum five (5) years work experience with at least two (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Simphony, MAS 90 (integrating the General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, and Inventory Management modules) and Online Bank Business Connection (WebCash Management System). Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

**(1) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC**

Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER**

Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. A Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER**

Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum of three (3) years of Banquet leadership role required. An Associate's Degree or higher or equivalency related to hotel food and beverage. Will manage all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Must be able to make right decisions to ensure guests satisfaction and judge employee performance and standards. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be knowledgeable of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER**

Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressure environment. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(2) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER**

Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) BAKER**

Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(4) BARTENDER**

Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of five (5) years of bartender experience, with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(4) BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(5) CARPENTER**

Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) CHEF DE CUISINE**

Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(6) CHEF DE PARTIE**

Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) CHEF DE PARTIE (CHINESE CUISINE)**

Minimum of three (3) years of experience in overseeing the production of Chinese cuisine for hotels, restaurants or banquets. Must have strong knowledge of Chinese cuisine. Plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**CLUBMATES**

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST**

Minimum IT industry experience (5 years minimum) required; thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2017 & Oracle database administration skills and corporate anti-virus software, Access database and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

**(14) COOK**

Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) COOK – THAI CUISINE**

Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

Minimum of ten (10) years of Engineering industry experience managing diesel operation and repairs for a hotel plus five (5) years management experience is required. A Bachelor's degree in Engineering is required. Must possess technical knowledge and experience on 3516 and 3512 Caterpillar Generators, 85 KW aqua design desalination plants, chiller systems, pumps, filtration systems for swimming pools and reverse osmosis systems are required. Must be certified Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operator Level 2 in water treatment and Level 1 in water distribution system. Must have knowledge and experience in handling Diesel Plants and Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operations. Must have technical knowledge and experience on SMARTD Oil less and Screw type Chillers System. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hour business. Proficient and knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(4) GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(2) GUEST RELATIONS**

Minimum of one (1) year hospitality experience. Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of two (2) years supervisory experience plus experience driving large passenger vehicles are required. Must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test. Must provide a traffic clearance with application. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(2) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR (ROOMS)**

Minimum of one (1) year housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self-starter with the ability to clean rooms as required.

supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN**

Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER**

Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelor's degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2017 & Oracle database, MAS90 Accounting System, administration skills, Corporate Anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, SPAM and Virus Firewall, IP Surveillance Systems, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Should be knowledgeable in utilizing a hotel database. Must have a thorough working knowledge of web programming and systems analysis. Must have general management ability as well as specific knowledge of the company's computer/network systems. Must be able to communicate with all department heads in the company that require computer and network systems. Must be able to translate the requirements of each department into a workable computer operation. Must keep up with new developments in computers, Networking and (VOIP) voice over IP equipment. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

**(1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of two (2) years of related work experience in a similar role working at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to utilize or operate landscaping tools and equipment. Previous experience in executing landscaping-related project is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT**

Minimum of three (3) months of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(2) LEAD COOK**

Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(2) MUSICIAN**

Minimum of two (2) years experience as a musician. Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian. Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis. At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

**(1) NIGHT AUDITOR**

Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience and College graduate with a major in Accounting. Must have business knowledge on basic functions of debits and credits; Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word; and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Simphony, and Oracle Hospitality Reporting and Analytics; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works. Position requires work from 11:30p.m – 7:30a.m and may require work during weekends and holidays.

**(1) PAINTER**

Minimum of three months (3) related work experience as a painter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(2) PASTRY COOK**

Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER**

Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

**(2) TEPPANYAKI COOK**

Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(2) PLUMBER**

Minimum of five years related work experience; must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

**(3) POOL MAINTENANCE**

Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) POOL MAINTENANCE CAPTAIN**

Minimum of two (2) years related work experience working at a hotel in a similar role is required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training is preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(5) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR**

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR**

Minimum of three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) RESERVATION CLERK**

Minimum of six (6) months working experience in a hotel. Must be able to use hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft office (Word / Excel). Must be able to speak, read, and write in English and either Korean, Russian, Chinese or Japanese. The languages listed are preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(3) ROOM ATTENDANT**

Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

**(1) SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR – KOREAN MARKET**

Minimum of five (5) years of hospitality/hotel or travel agent sales experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Korean, and be proficient with the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) SALES MANAGER – CHINA MARKET**

Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Chinese Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Chinese, and be proficient with the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

**(1) SALES MANAGER – JAPAN MARKET**

# Timberwolves romp past LeBron, Cavaliers



**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves, like so many lesser opponents over the years, have been largely unsuccessful in trying to best LeBron James.

This time, they built a lead on Cleveland as big as 41 points before the end of the third quarter. It was just another example of the difference Jimmy Butler has made on this promising team.

Andrew Wiggins had 25 points in three quarters, Butler pitched in 21 points and tight defense on James, and the Timberwolves cruised to a 127-99 victory over the Cavaliers on Monday night.

"We did what we're supposed to do at home," Butler said. "We're a really good team. They're a really good team. They missed a lot of shots that they normally make. We all know that. We'll see them again down the road, and hopefully we play the same exact way."

Karl-Anthony Towns (19 points, 12 rebounds) and Taj Gibson (16 points, 13 rebounds) were tenacious around the basket for the Timberwolves, who outrebounded the Cavs 56-37, their largest advantage of the season. The Wolves had a 60-42 edge in points in the paint, and every starter but Towns took the whole fourth quarter off.

With their 116-98 win over New Orleans on Saturday, the Wolves have enjoyed a ferocious start to this five-game homestand.

"We just came out the last two games with a certain mentality, a certain focus," Towns said.

James had just 10 points on 4-for-8 shooting, taking his



first loss at Minnesota in 13 games since Feb. 17, 2005. He posted a career-worst minus-39 rating.

"I've won a game and had a bad plus-minus before, so what does that matter?" James said. "I don't give a damn about no damn plus/minus."

The deficit for the Cavs

reached 41 points after a dunk by Wiggins set up by a driving pass by Tyus Jones, who had grabbed his own miss from 3-point range.

Butler had plenty to do with that, contributing nine assists and eight rebounds before resting during the fourth quarter. The Wolves led 69-42 at

halftime, matching their largest first-half score from just two nights ago, after a rainbow 3-pointer from the top of the key by Butler brought the fans to their feet. That also tied the most points allowed by the Cavs in any half this season.

"What he's doing every night, it's amazing, but it's also

## Near ace and big win for Dustin Johnson at Kapalua

**KAPALUA, Hawaii** (AP)—Dustin Johnson hit one of the best shots he never saw.

Not all of it, anyway.

The Sentry Tournament of Champions had reached that stage where all that was left to decide was the margin by which Johnson would win. He had a two-shot lead to start the final round at Kapalua, stretched to six shots at the turn and was leading by five when he reached the 343-yard 12th hole, where the final 120 yards are down the a steep hill with the Pacific Ocean on the horizon.

That's where Johnson delivered the signature moment in the first PGA Tour event of the new year.

He knew his drive was good when he hit it. What he missed was the ball catching

the right bounce to feed it onto the green, and then rolling straight toward the pin until it stopped just inches away from a hole-in-one.

"I could see it until it landed, but I knew it was on a good line," he said. "I know exactly where I want it to come down out of the air, and it did. So I knew it was going to be pretty good. I just didn't think I was going to have a tap-in."

When informed how close it was by Golf Channel reporter Jim "Bones" Mackay, Johnson told him he caught it a little thin.

He was joking.

The way he played the Plantation Course, it was hard to tell.

Johnson made up for his last PGA Tour event—the HSBC Champions in Shang-

hai, where he tied the worst kind of record by losing a six-shot lead—by turning the Tournament of Champions into a statement that he has been No. 1 in the world the last 11 months for a reason.

Playing in the last group, he produced an 8-under 65 for the best round of the tournament. He led by at least five shots over the final 11 holes. He finished at 24-under 268 and collected the 17th victory of his PGA Tour career.

Johnson now has won in 11 straight seasons.

"If I can play like that every week, I'm going to win a lot of times," he said.

The eight-shot margin of victory was his largest ever, and it was one short of the

tournament record set by David Duval since this event moved to Kapalua in 1999. Jordan Spieth also won by eight shots in 2016.

"On this course, it's tough the way the wind was blowing today," said Brian Harman, who played in the final group with him and couldn't keep up, especially on the 12th hole. "He knocks it to a foot on 12 for eagle, and I'm having to lay up to 130 yards. I mean it just, he's very talented off the tee and he used that to his advantage today."

Jon Rahm made his Kapalua debut by closing with a 69 to finish second. The 23-year-old from Spain moved to No. 3 in the world.

The way Johnson was playing, everyone was playing for second.

**AP** Minnesota Timberwolves' Taj Gibson, right, shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, in Minneapolis.

bringing the best out of everyone on the team, and to me that's the true mark of greatness," coach Tom Thibodeau said of his hand-picked leader and star who arrived last summer in a trade with Chicago.

### Raptors 114, Nets 113, OT

In New York, DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points, including a go-ahead three-point play with 26.1 seconds left in overtime, and Toronto shook off a late injury to Kyle Lowry to beat Brooklyn.

The Raptors lost a 10-point lead in the final 4 1/2 minutes of regulation and then lost Lowry after a hard fall in OT, but at least won the game, just as they always do against the Nets.

Toronto beat Brooklyn for the 10th straight time and won its fifth in a row overall.

Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors. Lowry finished with 18 points and 11 assists, but had to be carried off the court after landing on his lower back while going for a rebound.

### Pacers 109, Bucks 96

In Indianapolis, Domantas Sabonis had 17 points and 10 rebounds and three of his teammates each scored 15 to lead Indiana past Milwaukee.

Indiana has won two straight since a five-game losing streak. Victor Oladipo, Thaddeus Young and Myles Turner all scored 15 points.

The Bucks were led by Khris Middleton with 19 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo with 17.

### Rockets 116, Bulls 107

In Chicago, Eric Gordon and Chris Paul each had 24 points and nine assists, Gerald Green scored 22 and Houston beat Chicago.

Trevor Ariza hit six 3-pointers and scored 18 to go with nine rebounds. Clint Capela added 15 points and 16 rebounds, and the Rockets won for the third time in 10 games despite blowing a 21-point lead.

Bobby Portis led the Bulls with 22 points. Denzel Valentine and Kris Dunn each scored 19, but Chicago lost for the fifth time in six games.

With NBA scoring leader James Harden missing his fourth consecutive game because of a strained hamstring, the Rockets regained control after falling behind early in the third.

### Pelicans 112, Pistons 109

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins scored 16 of his 20 points after Anthony Davis left with an ankle injury in the third quarter, and New Orleans held off Detroit.

Rajon Rondo capped a 12-point, 15-assist performance with two transition layups in the last 1:21 to help secure a victory the Pelicans needed to restore morale after a listless blowout loss in Minnesota over the weekend.

Davis dominated before he left with 4:41 remaining in the third, scoring 30 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in 27 minutes. He walked to the locker room, favoring his right ankle, and never returned.

### Spurs 107, Kings 100

In Sacramento, out of sync for most of the first three quarters, the San Antonio Spurs got a big lift from LaMarcus Aldridge down the stretch and an even bigger boost off the bench from Davis Bertans.

With star forward Kawhi Leonard sidelined indefinitely by a left shoulder tear, it was the perfect combination to keep San Antonio's three-year winning streak against Sacramento going.

Aldridge had 31 points and 12 rebounds, Bertans scored a career-high 28 and the Spurs came back from 13 down in the second half to beat the Kings.

### Warriors 124, Nuggets 114

In Oakland, even when Stephen Curry isn't at his best he can still be downright brilliant.

Curry scored 32 points and dished out nine assists in another superb performance during his sensational recent stretch, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Nuggets 124-114 on Monday night to avenge an ugly home loss to Denver in late December.

"When you've got a guy as talented as Steph, he is who he is," teammate David West said. "The rest of us sort of understand and expect him to do what he's going to do."

### Clippers 108, Hawks 107

In Los Angeles, C.J. Williams hit a 3-pointer from the left wing with nine seconds left to lift the Los Angeles Clippers over the Atlanta Hawks 108-107 on Monday night.

Lou Williams led Los Angeles with 34 points but missed a late 3 that was rebounded by Wesley Johnson. He passed the ball out to C.J. Williams for a shot that snapped the Clippers' two-game skid.

Taurean Prince missed a 15-foot jumper with three seconds remaining on Atlanta's last possession.

# Alabama beats Georgia in OT for national title

ATLANTA (AP)—To add another championship to the greatest dynasty college football has ever seen, Alabama turned to its quarterback of the future, and Tua Tagovailoa proved that his time is now.

The freshman quarterback, who had played mostly mop-up duty this season, came off the bench to spark a comeback and threw a 41-yard touchdown to DeVonta Smith that gave No. 4 Alabama a 26-23 overtime victory against No. 3 Georgia on Monday night for the College Football Playoff national championship.

Tagovailoa entered the game at halftime, replacing a struggling Jalen Hurts, and threw three touchdown passes to give the Crimson Tide its fifth national championship since 2009 under coach Nick Saban.

"He just stepped in and did his thing," Hurts said. "He's built for stuff like this. I'm so happy for him." The Tide might have a quarterback controversy ahead of them, but first Alabama will celebrate another national title.

For the third straight season, Alabama played in a classic CFP final. The Tide split two with Clemson, losing last season on touchdown with a second left.

What was Saban thinking as the winning pass soared?

"I could not believe it," he said. "There's lots of highs and lows. Last year we lost on the last play of the game and this year we won on the last play of the game. These kids really responded the right way. We said last year, 'Don't waste the feeling.' They sure didn't, the way they played tonight."

Smith streaked into the end zone and moments later confetti rained and even Saban seemed almost giddy after watching maybe the most improbable victory of his unmatched career.

After Alabama kicker Andy Pappanastos missed a 36-yard field goal that would have won it for the Tide (13-1) in the final seconds of regulation, Georgia (13-2) took the lead with a 51-yard field goal from Rodrigo Blankenship in overtime.

Tagovailoa took a terrible sack on Alabama's first play of overtime, losing 16 yards. On the next play he found Smith, another freshman, and hit him in stride for the national championship.

This game will be remembered for Saban's decision to change quarterbacks trailing 13-0.

"I just thought we had to throw the ball, and I felt he could do it better, and he did," Saban said. "He did a good job, made some plays in the passing game. Just a great win. I'm so happy for Alabama fans. Great for our players.



Unbelievable."

Saban now has six major poll national championships, including one at LSU, matching the record set by the man who led Alabama's last dynasty, coach Paul Bear Bryant.

This one was nothing like the others.

The all-Southeastern Conference matchup was all Georgia in the first half before Saban pulled Hurts and went with the five-star recruit from Hawaii.

The Tide trailed 20-7 in the third quarter after Georgia's freshman quarterback Jake Fromm, hit Mecole Hardman for an 80-yard touchdown pass that had the Georgia fans feeling good about ending a national title drought that dates back to 1980.

A little less than a year after the Atlanta Falcons blew a 25-point lead and lost in overtime to the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl, there was more pain for many of the local fans. Two years ago, Georgia brought in Saban's top lieutenant, Kirby Smart, to coach the Bulldogs and bring to his alma mater a dose of Alabama's Process.

Smart, who spent 11 seasons with Saban, eight as his defensive coordinator, quickly built Alabama East. It was Georgia that won the SEC this season. Alabama had to slip into the playoff without even

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

winning its own division.

With the title game being held 70 miles from Georgia's campus in Athens, Dawg fans packed Mercedes-Benz Stadium, but it turned out to

be sweet home for Alabama.

But not without angst.

Alabama drove into the red zone in the final minute and Saban started playing for a field goal that would end the game and win it for the Tide. A nervous quiet gripped the crowd of 77,430 as 'Bama burned the clock. With the ball centered

in the middle of the field, Pappanastos lined up for a kick to win the national championship. The snap and hold looked fine, but the kicked missed badly to the left.

For the second straight week, Georgia was going to overtime. The Bulldogs beat Oklahoma in a wild Rose Bowl in double

overtime to get here, and after Jonathan Ledbetter and Davin Bellamy sacked Tagovailoa for a big loss on the first play, Alabama was in trouble -- second-and-26.

Not for long. Tagovailoa looked off the safety threw the biggest touchdown pass in the history of Alabama football.

## Sabathia can earn \$2M in innings bonuses with Yanks



### NEW YORK

(AP)—C C

Sabathia can

earn \$2 million in performance bonuses based on innings as part of his \$10 million, one-year contract with the New York Yankees.

Sabathia can earn \$500,000 each for 155, 165, 175 and 185 innings as part of the deal announced Dec. 26. The 37-year-old left-hander pitched 148 2/3 innings in 37 starts last year, down from 179 2/3 innings in 30 starts in 2016. He has not reached 185 innings since pitching 211 in 2013.

He is taking a pay cut from the \$25 million he earned last year, when he went 14-5 with a 3.69 ERA in 27 starts for his best season since 2012. He was 9-0 with a 1.71 ERA in 10 starts following a Yankees loss.

Sabathia needs periodic injections in his surgically repaired right knee. The six-time All-Star is part of a rotation

that includes Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, Sonny Gray and Jordan Montgomery.

In another move, the Yankees agreed last week to a minor league contract with utilityman Jace Peterson, who could provide another infield option. If added to the 40-man roster, Peterson would get a one-year deal for a salary of \$900,000 while in the major leagues and \$180,000 while in the minors.

The 27-year-old became a free agent when Atlanta failed to offer a 2018 contract by the Dec. 2 deadline. He hit .215 with two homers and 17 RBI in 215 plate appearances for the Braves last year and saw time in right, left and all four infield positions.

Selected by San Diego with the 58th overall pick in the 2011 amateur draft, Peterson has a .234 average, 15 homers and 98 RBI in four major league seasons.

In Boston, pitchers Carson Smith and Steven Wright, both coming off injuries, agreed to one-year contracts with the Red Sox that avoided salary arbitration.

Wright gets a non-guaranteed salary of \$1.1 million under the deal announced Monday and Smith receives \$850,000.

Smith missed most of the past two seasons while recovering from an elbow injury that required Tommy John surgery. Since he was acquired by the Red Sox, the reliever has appeared in eight games over two years.

An All-Star in 2016, Wright made just five starts last season. The knuckleballer had left knee surgery in May.

Ten Boston players remain eligible for arbitration, including shortstop Xander Bogaerts, outfielders Mookie Betts and Jackie Bradley Jr., and pitchers Drew Pomeranz and Eduardo Rodriguez.

Players and teams are scheduled to swap proposed salaries Friday.

In San Diego, right-hander Craig Stammen is guaranteed \$4.5 million as part of his two-year contract with the Padres and can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses annually based on pitching appearances.

San Diego announced his deal Saturday, when the Padres also said they agreed to a two-year contract with Japanese right-hander Kazuhisa Makita.

In addition, the Padres avoided arbitration with pitcher Carter Capps by agreeing to a non-guaranteed one-year deal worth \$1,062,500.

Stammen has a salary of \$2.25 million in each of the next two seasons and can earn \$100,000 for 20 pitching appearances and each additional five through 50. He can make \$150,000 apiece for 55 and 60.

# Eagles aware of historic underdog status vs Falcons

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Carson Wentz's value to the Philadelphia Eagles is reflected clearly in a historic betting line.

The Eagles (13-3) are the first No. 1 seed to be an underdog in their opening playoff game. The sixth-seeded Atlanta Falcons (11-6) are 2 1/2-point favorites in Saturday's NFC divisional playoff.

"It doesn't really matter," wide receiver Torrey Smith said Monday. "We're better than that, but we have to show it."

After Wentz tore his ACL in Week 14, the Eagles went 2-1 with backup quarterback Nick Foles. But the offense was inconsistent. Foles played well in his first five quarters after replacing Wentz and struggled in the next five. He sat out the final three quarters in Week 17 along with most of the starters.

Oddsmakers weren't impressed. Of course, players and coaches shrugged off the disrespect.

"I don't care what people say because what people say has never won a game for me and my teammates," linebacker Dannell Ellerbe said.

Defensive end Chris Long said it would be foolish for the team to use this as motivation.

"This is not the way we think," he said.

The Falcons are coming off



Philadelphia Eagles' Kenjon Barner, right, and Dallas Cowboys' Lance Lenoir chase a loose punt during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, in Philadelphia.

ent than last year," Schwartz said. "Every team's going to be a little bit different from year-to-year. There's going to be some things you do well, some things that you put in in the offseason, some things that maybe fit your personality a little bit more. There's still a lot of challenges with that team. I mean, it goes well beyond a player like Julio Jones. It goes well beyond the quarterback (Matt Ryan). Their tight end (Austin Hooper) is having a great year. Their running backs (Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman), if you combine the running back stats, you're talking about a first-team All-Pro—1,500 yards, I think 12 touchdowns. So we have to look at it that way. There's going to be a lot of challenges this week."

a 26-13 playoff win at the Los Angeles Rams after beating Carolina in a win-or-out regular-season finale. The defending NFC champions had their worst offensive performance during the 2016 season in a 24-15 loss at Philadelphia in Week 10.

Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz isn't drawing too much from that victory. Atlanta has a new offensive coordinator—Steve Sarkisian replaced Kyle Shanahan—and it took a while for them to get things on track.

"They are a little bit differ-

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two new additions to the calendar of events as agreed upon during the Pacific Games Association general assembly in 2016.

The events for the 2019 Pacific Games were reduced to 26 (from 28 in PNG) during the general assembly, too. Next year will also be the last time that Pacific Games will have 26 sports, as the council

will only allow 24 events, beginning in 2023 "to maintain the sustainability and affordability of the Games."

Next year's competition in Samoa will follow the original schedule set by Tonga, so the Games will run from July 8 to 20. Australian and New Zealand will still be invited to participate in the Samoa-hosted Games, but they are limited to field athletes in eight sports. The two powerhouse coun-

## CTSI

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Angie Ito also provided support to their gunners after combining for 13 more points for CTSI.

Irish Pagarao led Fiesta Resort with her 16 points and did not receive enough help from her teammates.

Meanwhile, in the boys division game, 670 Sonics XVIII knocked in clutch free throws to escape past Kanoa Resort.

670 Sonics XVIII's last 4 markers all came from the foul line with Rafael Domini Ordonez making a pair from the stripe and Emmanuel Cobacha and Matthew Kapileo splitting their charities. Khristian Itaas also hit important baskets for 670 Sonics XVIII, recording 7 straight points, including the squad's final three field goals.

Itaas top-scored for 670 Sonics XVIII with his 12 markers, while his four other teammates contributed at least 5 points each in the hard-earned win. 670 Sonics XVIII now has a 4-1 record to take

the solo second place behind the undefeated M&M Salas Ol'Aces (4-0), while Kanoa fell to fourth with its 3-2 slate.

Sun Palace is in solo third with its 3-1 mark, while 670 Sonics XVI (1-3), 670 Sonics XVII (1-3), Saipan Vegas Elite (1-3), and Saipan Vegas Extreme (0-4) complete the field.

## Girls Division

**CTSI 47**—M. Alegre 10, Pablo 10, Alferos 9, Watanabe 5, Espinosa 4, Ito 4.

**Fiesta Resort 34**—Pagarao 16, Francisco 6, Tuazon 5, Joyce 4, Avelino 3.

**Scoring by halves:** 21-15, 47-34.

## Boys Division

**670 Sonics XVIII 52**—Francisco 12, Diaz 7, Kapileo 7, Tengco 6, Rafols 5, Ordonez 4, Cobacha 4, Malasarte 2, De Guzman 2, Kintaro 2.

**Kanoa Resort 48**—El-lama 16, Deleon Guerrero 12, Gamab 7, Yun 4, Kizer 4, Tenorio 3, Santos 2, Muna 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 24-23, 52-48

## Saints a revenge game for Vikings fans; players not so much

**EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.** (AP)—For fans of the Minnesota Vikings, at least the ones old enough to drive, there's a score to be settled with the New Orleans Saints.

Eight years ago, the last Minnesota team considered a strong Super Bowl contender was on the verge of victory in New Orleans in the NFC championship game despite four earlier turnovers inside the raucous Superdome.

That was until the infamous 12-men-in-the-huddle penalty with 19 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter pushed the Vikings out of field goal range and preceded Brett Favre's ill-fated throw across his body that was intercepted by Tracy Porter to force overtime and steer the Saints toward the franchise's only title. The bitterness in Minnesota toward the team in black and gold only increased two years later when an NFL investigation concluded then-New Orleans defensive coordinator Gregg Williams encouraged a bounty system designed to financially reward players for hitting and injuring Favre.

There's only one player, defensive end Brian Robinson, who's still around from that season, however. That painful stumble at the end of the most important game the Vikings have played in almost two decades doesn't mean much at all to the guys on the 2017 roster.

"We just have to come out and play our game, regardless of who's mad at who for whatever reason," wide receiver Jarius Wright said.

Head coach Mike Zimmer was actually sitting in the seats that evening, with his defensive coordinator duties for Cincinnati on break with the Bengals already eliminated from the playoffs. His son, Adam Zimmer, was an assistant linebackers coach for New Orleans that year.

"I was just sitting there observing. I wasn't really rooting for anybody or anything like that," Zimmer said, before revealing his drink of choice on Bourbon Street that day: "I had some of those hurricanes."

For these Vikings, the Saints simply represent their first obstacle to being the first

team to play in a Super Bowl in its home stadium. They had to wait until the very end of their bye week to find out who they would be facing in the divisional round game, with the Saints topping the Carolina Panthers 31-26 in New Orleans on Sunday night.

"I think they understand the magnitude of where we're at in the playoffs and that New Orleans is a heck of a football team," Zimmer said on Monday afternoon, when the Vikings reconvened for preparation.

The Vikings beat the Saints 29-19 in the season opener, when Sam Bradford was their quarterback and Dalvin Cook was the running back for an offense that took full advantage of a young defense trying to get set. The Saints also still had Adrian Peterson in their backfield then, before trading him to the Arizona Cardinals and clearing space for rookie Alvin Kamara to elevate his role next to Mark Ingram.

"From the first time we played them to now, it's totally different," Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes said.

tries started competing in the Pacific Games in 2015 when they joined four sports, while in Vanuatu last month during the Mini Games, Australia and New Zealand only entered in two sports.

The CNMI only saw action in athletics, 3x3 men's basketball, and weightlifting during the 2017 Pacific Mini Games and brought home a bronze medal, thanks to lifter Angel San Nicolas.

## DEMAPAN

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Tudela showed consistency in last month's competition after tallying a pair of 74s for a 148 total, while Deleon Guerrero had a good first round with his 72, but failed to keep his momentum as he posted a 77 in Round 2 for a 149. Manibusan and Krishnan earned similar scores of 150 in two rounds as both shot a 76 in the first and 74 in the second.

Besides placing No. 7 in the rankings, Krishnan also won the longest drive contest on No. 7 in the second round, while Ray Salas took the same award in the first. On hole No. 14, the longest drive winners were Juan Lizama in Round 1 and Juan Babauta in Round 2.

In the closest-to-the-pin competitions, Balakrishna and Tudela prevailed on No. 6 in the first and second round, respectively; James Nelson and Jung Eun Teack on No. 8; Deleon Guerrero and Demapan on No. 12; and Tudela and John "Nanni" Cruz on No. 15.

# 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Saipan Vegas Extreme player escapes with a fastbreak layup during their game against the 670 Sonics XVIII in the boys division of the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



670 Sonics XVIII's Rafael Ordona pulls up for a jumper.



A M&M Salas Ol'Aces player, right, tries to dribble past Kanoa Resort's Tony Deleon Guerrero.



The GSM Lady Ol'Aces' Eleina Santos takes off for a shot against two IT&E defenders.



IT&E's Jerlyn Castillo, left, looks for her teammates, while GMS Lady Ol'Aces' Eleina Santos stays close on her.



CTS's Maron Diaz, center, is pressured by two Shirley's Coffee Shop defenders.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Britally Wally, left, and CTS's Nanaka Watanabe battle for the loose ball.



IT&E's Friendly Joy Pena, right, attempts to tap the ball away from the GSM Lady Ol'Aces' Anna Lei Santos.



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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Alabama beats  
Georgia in OT  
for national title**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## Demapan wins SGA Ace of Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roelyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**J**oe Demapan banked on a strong first round to rule the 2017 Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament held last month at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Demapan, who took the SGA August Ace to qualify for the season-ending competition, fired a net 65 in the opening round and followed it up with a 73 in the second for a total of 138 or six strokes

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Joe Demapan shows the championship trophy that he won after topping the 2017 SGA Ace of the Aces Tournament held last month at the Kingfisher Golf Links.



ahead of his closest pursuer.

The eventual club champion led by five shots against Steve Balakrishna after Round 1, which was played in the morning of the Dec. 23 competition, as the latter finished with a 70 after 36 holes. Demapan's best net score in the opener gave him enough cushion despite slowing down in the final round that took place in the afternoon.

Balakrishna carded a 74 in Round 2 to miss the championship and settle for second place honors after recording 144. John Lizama, who had the lowest net in the second round with 72, was ranked third as he started slow with his 74 in the opening round for a 146 total.

Alex Tudela, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Ed Manibusan, and Das Krishnan rounded out the finishers that were recognized during the tournament's awards ceremony held last Dec. 27 at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

**See DEMAPAN on Page 26**

## Samoa sets 26 sports for 2019 Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roelyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Samoa will be offering 26 sports when it hosts the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia.

Samoa was selected new host of the next year's competition after Tonga pulled out due to financial problems. Guam also submitted a bid to take over the hosting rights for the Games from Tonga, but did not meet the criteria of the Pacific Games

Council, particularly the financial security required. The council awarded the Games to Samoa last August during the council's board meeting in Vanuatu.

The council met anew in Port Vila last month during the 2017 Pacific Mini Games and discussed Apia's preparation for next year's event.

Samoa will have two fewer sports than the 2015



Pacific Games held in Papua New Guinea. Of the 26 events, the host will have 16 compulsory sports. The list includes athletics, basketball, boxing, football, golf, judo, Rugby 7s, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, va'a (canoe), volleyball (beach and indoor) and weightlifting. Triathlon and sailing are the

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Sprinters race in the men's 100m finals during the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Athletics is one of the 16 compulsory sports in the 2019 Pacific Games that will be held in Apia, Samoa.

## CTSI, 670 Sonics XVIII prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roelyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CTSI and 670 Sonics XVIII recorded contrasting victories in the final pair of matches in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the girls division, CTSI downed Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 47-34, while in the boys division, 670 Sonics XVIII edged Kanoa Resort, 52-48.

CTSI played better offense in the second half for its 14-point winning margin against Fiesta Resort, which absorbed back-to-back losses after sweeping its first four matches. CTSI and Fiesta Resort now hold identical 4-2 records to tie for second place behind the unbeaten GSM Lady Ol'Aces (5-0).

Ahead by only 6 at half-time, 21-15, Madi Alegre used her height advantage to score easy baskets in the paint and lead CTSI's breakaway in the second half. Alegre drilled all her 10 points in the final 20 minutes of the match, making 6 straight markers early in the



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CTSI's Angie Ito, center, is sandwiched by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Britany Wally, left, and Paulynn Joyce during the first half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

second half.

Mary Kay Alferos also stepped up in the final frame, logging 6 of her 9 markers, while Dianne Pablo was the

other double figure scorer for CTSI with 10. Nana Watanabe, Chanel Espinosa, and

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